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# The History of Petersham, Massachusetts

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The History of  
PETERSHAM  
Massachusetts

Incorporated April 20, 1754

Volunteerstown or Voluntown - 1730 - 1733  
Nichewaug - 1733 - 1754



By  
Mabel Cook Coolidge  
for

The Petersham Historical Society, Inc.

## PETERSHAM

Here, where the peace of the Creator lies,  
Far from the busy mart's incessant hum,  
Where mountains in their lonely grandeur rise,  
Waiting unmoved the ages yet to come,  
Thou dwellest under broad and tranquil skies,  
A green oasis with unfailing springs,  
The undisturbed home of restful things.

Here, with the morn, when day is blithely breaking,  
And from the east a hemisphere of light  
Rolls westward o'er a world refreshed, awaking  
From the embrace of slumber and of night,  
Sweet comes the bonny bluebird's joyous greeting,  
While strutting Chanticleer, with tuneful throat  
Heralds the day in shrill, exultant note.

At sunset through thy woods I take my way,  
Threading the mazy walks and avenues,  
While from the crimson west some lingering ray  
Falls on my path, and memory's shrine endues  
With dreamy incense of a by-gone day,  
And in the thronging multitudes of sylvan voices  
Sweet summer music tells us how the wood rejoices.

Ah, can this be the Paradise? or yet  
Bright El Dorado, or Arcadia, where  
Glad fairies revel when the sun hath set,  
And songs of birds forever fill the air?  
Where nymph or dryad, with soft eyes of jet,  
Lures the late wanderer to his final rest,  
And charms his life out on her faithless breast?



PETERSHAM

O thou most dear and venerated spot,  
I love thee for that thou art still as when  
In happy hours—unclouded then my lot  
I lay within thy fern-enshrouded glen  
And felt thy loving presence. Not again  
With prayers or tears may vanished hours be bought  
So be it, then, and here on thy green breast,  
When life is done, grant me a spot to rest.

*Ralph Browning Fiske*

# Introduction

Since this book was ready to go to press much has happened. World War II and other complications have prevented the printing. At last, in 1948, the book is in our hands.

It is a cross-section of three hundred years of Petersham history. Much of interest is between its covers and much, perforce, has been left out. It is hoped that those who know bits of history, or anecdotes, or corrections of data, will write them and give them or mail them to: Historian, Petersham Historical Society Inc., that they may be recorded for some future history.

Some of our buildings have recently been destroyed including Mrs. Day's house on the common (The Wetherell-Ayers-Nightingale house) which was burned to the ground the night of January 14th, 1947. Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Frazer who were living there narrowly escaped with their lives.

Several houses have changed hands in the last few years among them Miss Cora Stratton's house on West Street, now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Parsons.

The red barn on East Street, long a landmark, was razed recently, and the Wilcox house at the corner of Quaker Drive has been moved to Barre.

The store on the common continues to be a center of trade and community life under the able management of Edward C. Hutchinson and his wife Pauline Plunkett Hutchinson.

William Barnes is postmaster, with Palmer Lord as assistant. Dr. Wesley Brown is town physician.

Each year, each month, each day there are changes in town; all adding to the history of Petersham. No one now living has a greater store of knowledge of Petersham's past than our author Mabel Cook Coolidge.

To the thriving younger generation we leave it's future.

Petersham

February 12, 1948

*Amey Willson Hart*

*Katherine Tyler Dexter*

*Carolyn Whiting Goodsell*

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## FOREWORD

**I**N 1890 the public-spirited ladies of the summer colony organized the lively girls of the town into the Petersham Girls Club. Study of the history and traditions of old houses was added, as an educational feature of interest, to the joy of dressing dolls for southern institutions and making warm clothes for the children in the Baldwinville Cottages.

Consequently, the writer, at the age of seventeen, began to take notes from interviews with the older people in the town including Mrs. Eunice Holman, Mrs. Dolly Stearns Patch, Miss Maria Knowlton, Miss Angeline Clark, Cephas Hinds, Charles Brewer, Henry Grover, Charles Dudley, Mrs. Eliza Bouker Loring; and later Merrick Hildreth, George Ayers, Job Lippett, Charles K. Wilder, James Rice, Mrs. Elizabeth Howe Gay, James Brooks, and his sister Martha.

Those note books are a mingling of facts, traditions and stories in all shades of propriety, revealing strange emotions of jealousies, retaliations as well as humor and pathos, in the simplicity of the good, the beautiful and the true, in the lives of the Petersham folks, in those early days.

When the committee selected the writer of this History, they charged her to record everything she knew of the past, for no matter how insignificant an item seems, there is a chance that it prove to be the tie linking those of greater importance. These years have been full of joy, and interest in the attempt to verify, adjust, and co-ordinate a tale of reasonable truth of the past two hundred and ten years of Petersham life. Even so, many things, remain doubtful and unrecorded, in the hope that they may some time be verified by future students of history, enabled by clearer records to proceed along this alluring path.

Stress has been placed upon the location of Early Settlers, for two important reasons, first because of the ever increasing number of inquiries locating ancestors; and second, because of the rapid demolishment of sources of information regarding them in clearing out seemingly useless papers from attics. Family Bibles were removed by remote generations and by fires.

## FOREWORD

This assembling of Historical data regarding the Town of Peter-sham has been in compliance with the oft expressed wish that a real History might be gathered. It was enthusiastically emphasised by George Marsh, that it be a record of the rich, the poor, the good, the bad, the black and the white; the unvarnished truth told of circumstances as they really were. The final impetus to bring the matter to a culmination was the following circumstance:

One hundred and forty years ago, September 11, 1800, Mary, daughter of Nathan and Lydia Lincoln Prentiss, was born in their home on South Main street near the junction of the Barre and Hardwick roads. Apparently she lived the usual life of the country girl for twenty-five years, until December 28, 1825, when she became the wife of Captain Hollis Tidd of New Braintree. Her life then, until its close in 1868, was spent there, yet always in touch with Peter-sham. It was said of her by a woman of wide experience and intimate association, "How few people there are in this world that one would want to live with. She was a person who understood living with others, and I could have passed my life with her always pleasantly. I never saw her get up to go out of the room without a feeling of regret. I never could think of any place she could not fill."

In the summer of 1924 the children of Ellen Augusta Gleason, only daughter of Mary Prentiss Tidd, learned of the building plan of the Historical Society. Unrestricted donations followed for that and other purposes of the Society. The finished building was dedicated in 1927. Miss Amey Willson, Mrs. Carolyn Goodsell and Miss Katherine Dexter, a committee chosen to recommend suitable recognition of the gifts in memory of Mary Prentiss Tidd, decided that, inasmuch as the publication of a town history is most desirable, the unexpended part of the memorial gifts might appropriately be used

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

for that purpose. The Historical Society voted to make effective this recommendation with the hope that the financial success will warrant printing the Town's vital records to date and copying the Proprietor's Records, thus making the Memorial three-fold.

*Mabel Coolidge*  
*Petersham 1941*







The Old  
School  
house

Old Church Petersham

Remored-in-1842

Built-in-1784

Petersham Common, 1840, by F. Prince and C. Gray

## INDIAN ORIGINS

Nipmuck, Nipnet (fresh pond), Nichewaug (the land between), Nashewaug (Lancaster), (land between two fishing places). Dr. Trumbull defines the name. Nippe: "fresh water" or "well watered"; Mocassin, meaning "shoe"; Mokussinash, "made of deer-skin worn out"; Naquage, "point or corner".

The Nipmuck country, between the fringe of the English settlements on the coast and the Connecticut River on the west, was generously sprinkled with ponds of fresh water. There were forests of trees of the same variety as we have today. The meadows along streams and especially intervalles were kept clear of brush by fire, and their soil, enriched each year by the sediment of floods and ashes of burnings, yielded grasses and sedges, lush and tall.

The old Indian trails followed the divides, avoiding swamps and seeking rivers at their fords. Their barns were dug-outs in the side hills or knolls affording good drainage; they were from three to five feet wide, and the same in depth, where corn, peas, and smoked fish were stored.

By some writers, the Nipmucks were considered inferior mentally and physically to their stronger neighbor tribes, the Mohawks (man eaters) in the west, Moheicans in Connecticut, Narragansetts in Rhode Island, Poconockets around Plymouth, and the Merrimacs of the north; but evidently both Gookin and Elliott considered these Nipmucks of quite as high standards as their neighbors, and King Phillip found them congenial companions for long periods at a time.

The Nipmuck grinders and pestles are mostly found to be of granite, and their bowls and vessels of soapstone for burning oil, grease or blubber for light.

After King Phillip's War, the Nipmucks drifted west and joined the river Indians.

It was the custom of the Hassanamisco tribe to go to Wachusett (hill town) in the fall to hunt and their beacon fires on the top told their story to every camp.

From Mary Rowlandson's own narrative of her captivity, and its accompanying map published in Lancaster for its two hundred and

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

fiftieth anniversary in 1903, we find several items of deep interest to Petersham.

On January 24th, 1675, Quanapaug, a Christian convert of the Nashaway tribe and employed as a scout by Governor Leverett, brought the information from Monoco, a Nashaway Sachem, that the hostile Indians assembled near Quabaug would fall upon the English settlements in twenty days and that they would first assault Lancaster, then a frontier town of about fifty families, organized into five or six garrisons. The colonial authorities failed to recognize the importance of the warning, so on Thursday, Feb. 10th, 1675 the terrible massacre of Lancaster occurred, while the minister, Joseph Rowlandson, was in the Bay Colony seeking assistance.

Fifty-five persons are supposed to have been killed and twenty were taken captives. Among the captives were the minister's wife, Mary Rowlandson with her three children, Joseph aged thirteen, Mary aged ten and Sarah aged six who had been wounded, and died eight days later in a camp in what is the present town of New Braintree. In the story of the eleven weeks and five days of captivity, Mrs. Rowlandson describes each "remove" or encampment, manner of living, and hardships endured, until word was received that the captives would be ransomed when they were returned to Wachusett. Their journey was made on foot, following the Indian trails, encamping when night overtook them, sometimes staying a few days in one place to rest after the long marches. About ten miles a day was accomplished with very little to eat, fording icy streams, or building rude rafts of logs and brush. The first encampment was about a mile west of Lancaster on George's Hill, the second, in the west part of Princeton, and the third, within the township of New Braintree very near Barre Plains. This encampment continued from Sat. Feb. 12th to Sunday Feb. 27th, during which period on Feb. 21st, her captors joined the attack on Medfield. During this encampment, also, occurred the death of her daughter, Sarah, on Feb. 18th, eight days after she was wounded, at the age of six years and five months. Her son Joseph, who was with another group of Indians, was allowed a short visit with his mother. Here, also, she parted with her daughter, Mary, not to see her again

until she saw her in Dorchester returned from captivity. Four little cousins and her neighbors, some of whom she never saw again, were taken on another trail. After these heartrending separations from her three children, she continued Feb. 28th to the next encampment in the extreme northwestern part of Petersham, ever since known as "Indian Camp". Of this "remove" she writes:

"From Monday, Feb. 28th to Friday, Mar. 3rd. We traveled more than half a day and came to a desolate place in the wilderness, where there were no Wigwams or inhabitants before; we came about the middle of the afternoon to this place, cold, wet, snowy, hungry, and weary, and no refreshing for man but the cold ground to sit on, and our poor Indian cheer. Heartaching thoughts I had here about my poor children, who were scattered up and down among the wild beasts of the forests. My head was light and dizzy (either through hunger or hard lodging or trouble or altogether). My knees feeble, and I cannot express the affliction that lay upon my spirit; at this place continued four days".

It was here that news came that the English Army was following them, so they broke camp in a hurry, and "then like Jehu they marched on furiously, some carried their poor old mothers on their backs. Four men started with a great Indian on a bier but were so hindered by the brush that they took turns carrying him on their backs till they reached the bank of the Baquaug River" near the present Athol Orange line. They hastily built rafts of small trees and brush for those who could not ford the icy waters. All succeeded in crossing the stream and continued their journey to their next encampment beside the great Northfield Swamp on the trail from Nichewaug to Squakeag. Then they crossed the Connecticut River and encamped at Coasset or what is now South Vernon. The English Army had been stopped by the Baquaug River and considerably delayed in crossing it.

Several otherwise reliable historians have recorded that King Phillip led the assault in Lancaster but this has been proved an error by Mrs. Rowlandson's own diary, by the testimony on one Robt. Pepper, a captive, and by the records of the states of New York and Con-

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

necticut. At the time of the massacre at Lancaster, Phillip was in a camp with a thousand warriors at Scattycook, twenty miles north of Albany, whither he had gone to obtain shot and powder from the Dutch and Canadians, hoping to entice the Mohawks into an alliance against the English. In returning to our state he joined the assembled hostile tribes at South Vernon, at the time the captives reached there, so it was at this place that Mrs. Rowlandson first saw him. Later, she became the maid of one of his squaws, Weetano, who had been the widow of his brother Alexander.

The journey was continued to Chesterfield where several days were passed in bargaining ransom with the English; then the return trip to Wachusett began, April 10th, and the "seventeenth remove" was within the Nichewaug borders probably on the southern slope of Turkey Hill in the rear of the Hill house and on Campfield Brook. Of this camp Mrs. Rowlandson writes:

"A comfortable remove it was to me because of my hopes. They gave me a pack and along we went cheerfully, but quickly my will proved more than my strength; having little or no refreshing, my strength failed me and my spirits were almost gone. At night we came to an Indian town and the Indians sate down by a Wigwam discoursing, but I was almost spent, and could scarce speak. I laid down my load and went into a Wigwam where sate an Indian boy-ling Horses feet. I asked him to give me a little of the broth, or water they were boyling in; he took a dish and gave me a spoonful of samp and bid me take as much of the broth as I would. Then I put some of the hot water to the samp and drank it up and my spirit came again. Now is my spirit revived again, though means be never so inconsiderable. Yet if the Lord bestow his blessing upon them, they shall refresh Soul and Body".

The journey continued to the foot of Wachusett where she was ransomed on "Redemption Rock", May 2nd, 1675.

King Phillip and Quanopin had accompanied them on the return trip and were present when the ransom was paid but Phillip refused to give his consent to free the captives.

In 1934 route 32 was unofficially named King Phillip's Trail. It



Indian Grinding Stone on the Dudley Place.



The Gates Elm with ingrown Chain.  
Felled by the hurricane September 21, 1938.





## INDIAN ORIGINS. MRS. ROWLANDSON'S DIARY

extends from Hillsboro, N. H. to Norwich, Conn. through Winchendon, Athol, Petersham, Barre, Ware, Monson, and Stafford Springs.

Lancaster suffered much at the hands of the Indians, and in 1722 an act was passed offering the sum of one hundred pounds for the scalp of a male Indian over twelve years old, and half that sum for a woman or child, dead or alive. This act proved an incentive to undertake this desperate warfare and the volunteers from the frontier towns of Lancaster, Lunenburg, Brookfield, etc., were led by Capt. John White of Lancaster, and Capt. John Lovell, or Lovewell, of Dunstable. During the four years that this war lasted, these Volunteers had ample time and opportunity to become familiar with this section of the country and it apparently was pleasing to them, for in Jan. 1731, they petitioned the General Court for a grant of land, as a consideration of their hardship and difficult marches into this country after the Indian enemy, as Volunteers under the command of Captains Lovell and White.

There is a tradition that the early settlers of our town suffered no ill treatment from the Indians because they had paid them for the land. There seems to be no record of this, so we infer the reason may be that of the historian who said that the Nipmucks welcomed the English as a protection, believing them to be superior beings. Elliot set the number of the Nipmucks in Worcester County at 1150 after King Phillip's War.

Altho' Mr. Willson was convinced there had been no previous English settlements here when the grant was made to the Volunteers "or half crown men" as they were called in 1733, he said that Jared Weed was sure that Joseph Wilson, said to be the first white man to spend a winter here, was established in town as early as the autumn of 1731; and the vital records indicate that Abner, son of Joseph and Rebakah, was born Oct. 10th, 1732, a year before Joseph drew his houselot no. 66 with other Proprietors.

There is a reasonable tradition that the grown sons of the English in neighboring settlements wandered into this Nipmuck country, partly from curiosity or love of adventure; were favorably received, and found the free, lawless life of the red men preferable to the ar-

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

bitrary life of the Puritanic English. The fact that the first houselots were laid on the ridges of hills, while the lowlands, swamps, and river valleys were referred to as "common" or "undivided" land subject to a later distribution, gave rise to the supposition that the Indians continued in these sheltered, fertile regions several years after the English established their homesteads on the hilltops, in harmony, both races realizing the value of peace and unmolestation. Thirty years after this Church was gathered, a dismission was granted to Lydia Squin, an Indian woman, to the church in Rochester in 1768, and less than ten years later, Peter Gore, a half-breed, was guarding the church pulpit against the intrusion by the Tory parson, Aaron Whitney. George Marsh related the story that his grandmother, Mrs. Simon Dudley, saw an Indian peering into a window in their Sacketts Harbor home, and she didn't go there to live until 1816. That same window was transferred to the bungalow built for Homer Marsh. Apparently there was considerable mingling of the races, and as recently as the beginning of the present century, not less than eighteen of our prominent Petersham families could trace their ancestry back to the Indian as well as to the English.

There is another tradition that an agreement between the first settlers and the Indians allowed the Indians the privilege of taking any ash tree, wherever it happened to be growing, to be used in their handicraft of basketry.

## IN THE BEGINNING

From Rev. E. B. Willson's Centennial Address of 1854, we learn that in answer to Captain Lovell's petition for encouragement to hunt Indians, the General Court of Massachusetts offered a bounty of one hundred pounds, for every Indian Scalp which should be brought in. Lovell, who was known as a gallant and successful warrior, had no difficulty in gathering around him a band of resolute men ready to share with him the dangers and profits of Indian hunting.

In December 1724 his Company had brought in one scalp and one living captive from beyond Lake Winnipiscogee, and received their reward. The following February he set out on his second expedition with ninety men, and after a short absence, returned to claim a thousand pounds prize money, besides the distinction of giving the name of Lovell Pond to a body of water in Wakefield, New Hampshire.

In April 1725 Lovell was again on the march with forty-six men into the territory of the Pequawkets. This expedition had a melancholy termination, and proved fatal to the daring adventurer, with whose name the early history of this Town has become associated. His followers however, petitioned the General Court for a grant of land in recognition for their services.

Captain John White had served under Captain Lovell, and went out to bury that brave man after his last expedition against the Pequawks.

These expeditions have been ably described at length by Rev. Peter Whitney, Rev. E. B. Willson and Jared Weed Esquire. Suffice for us that these brave survivors began soon after 1725 to send petitions to the General Court for a grant of land for their service as volunteers, and to strengthen their claims they designated this grant to be known as Volunteer's Town or Voluntown. However it's name from its settlement to its incorporation is recorded as Nichawaug (spelled seven ways) the name of the local tribe of Nipmucks or Nipnets.

The date of the final petition that won recognition is given as April 5th, 1733.

The two plantations of Quabbin and Nichewaug petitioned the

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

General Court at the same time for incorporation as Townships, and the two were acted upon together, the names of both towns left blank until time for the final signatures to be placed upon the documents. Therefore, it is inferred that the Court officials selected the names of two good Old English towns, Greenwich and Petersham, at the time the petitions were approved.

# TERRITORIAL

For services in the Indian Wars, Simon Willard was granted 500 acres of unclaimed land anywhere he could find it, and later, another 500 acres of unclaimed land was granted to Simon Willard and Daniel Gookin together. After the death of Simon Willard in 1676, the General Court granted 1000 acres to the six minor children when they shall become of age and it shall be, "Beyond the Nashway River".

Benjamin Willard Stevens states that in the records of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the General Court grants Major Simon Willard for services to the Colony, "1000 acres of land twelve miles west of Wachusett Mountain", and "As the crow flies", that would locate the grant or at least part of it in Petersham; perhaps accounting for the settlement of the extreme eastern portion of the town by the four Wilder families and that of Joseph Stevens, while the northeasterly section of the town was taken up by Simon Willard, all descendents and probably grandchildren of Major Simon Willard.

From the history of Concord, Massachusetts, we learn the origin of the standard size of a township granted by the Great and General Court. When bargaining with the Indians for land, Simon Willard demanded as much land in each point of the compass as came within the range of vision. When measured, this proved to be three miles. Thus the standard became three miles north, south, east, and west from a central point making six miles square or thirty-six square miles.

Plan No. 436 in the Archives at the State House is of triangular form, the three boundaries marked, "Volunteer Town", "Province Land", and "Paoquaige". The survey of January 15, 1734-1735 granted, by the Great and General Court, their part of 3000 acres to enable them to keep in repair the great bridge over the Charles River. (Site of the present Lars Anderson Bridge). It was bounded south easterly on the town granted to a number of volunteers who served with His Majesty under command of Captain Lovell and Captain White, and west on the province land containing 434 acres taken off of Volunteer Town. Surveyed by Benjamin Houghton and Joseph Wilder.

From an article in the Athol Transcript on the "Boundary lines

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

of Pequag and Athol" written by E. V. Wilson, November 14, 1921, we find recorded that the tract granted to the Town of Newton for maintaining the new bridge over the Charles River, was owned by Samuel Kendall from 1734 to 1761, when it was included in the tract incorporated as the town of Athol, it's southwest corner marked by a stone near, and southwest of, where the New Sherborne road crosses the Petersham line.

Plan No. 444, March 6, 1744:

Laid out 1200 acres of land to fulfil grant made June 20, 1733 by the Great and General Court be added to the northwesterly part or the Township granted to the Volunteers under the command of the late Captains Lovell and White, called half crown men. Said 1200 acres bounded south easterly on said township, northerly on Province Township, nor'westerly and south westerly upon unappropriated lands. It begins at a stake, the westerly corner of said Volunteer's Town, the south westerly line, north 36 degrees, west 93 rods to a stake and a heap of stones from thence east 35 degrees north 2030 rods to south line of ye Province Township; thence east along line 163 rods to north easterly line of said Volunteer's Township and from thence south westerly, along said line to where it began. Surveyed by Jonas Houghton.

Two years after the town was incorporated as Petersham in 1754, it was discovered that the act of incorporation had not included the above tract of 1200 acres. Therefore, Abel Willard, representing the town, petitioned the court to include the tract that had been omitted and the error was rectified August 25, 1756.

Among the acts passed at the session held at Boston, March 27; 1754, are recorded the following bounds of Petersham, set off as a township from the plantation of Nichewaug;

"Beginning at a heap of stones on Rutland northwest line and running six miles from the northerly corner thereof; from thence running north thirty-four degrees west by the needle one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four perch to a beech tree with stones; from thence running west thirty-five degrees south, two thousand one hundred and twenty eight perch to the west angle; from thence running

## TERRITORIAL

south thirty-six degrees east one thousand six hundred and fifty perch to a heap of stones, the westerly corner of said Rutland district; and from thence on Rutland district northwest line to where it began". ( 1 perch or 1 pole equals one rod).

In 1801 an irregular section of Petersham was set off to be incorporated with lands from Hardwick and Greenwich, into the new township of Dana. According to Edward Bruce Hill, the irregularity was caused by following the boundary lines of the farms of the petitioners. In 1842, another petition for an additional grant to Dana straightened the lines somewhat. In 1938 the Metropolitan Water supply Commission, in its survey in completing the Quabbin Water Basin, attached to Petersham not only the town of Dana but portions of the towns of Prescott and Greenwich, approved by legislature and accepted by the selectmen of Petersham.

## EARLY RECORDS

Page 12 of Proprietors Records ( no date):

Major Chandler formed the committee last night to consider the Petitions of Jeremiah Perley and others and John Bennett and others who made report which was read and accepted and thereupon ordered and hereby is granted to the petitioners and their associates, a tract of land of the contents of six miles square, for a township at a place petitioned of, viz:-Beginning six miles from Rutland northwest corner and so to proceed according to lines herein mentioned to be laid out in a regular form by a surveyor and chain, men under oath, a plan thereof to be presented at their next May session for confirmation, the said tract by them to be settled on conditions, viz:- that they, within the space of three years settle and have actually on the spot, sixty families the settlers to be the petitioners or their descendents: each settler to build and finish a convenient dwelling house, of one story high, eighteen foot square at least and seven foot stud, and clear and bring to three acres fit for improvement, and three acres more well stocked with English grass, and also lay out three shares throughout the town, each share to be one sixty-third part of said tract, one share for the first settled minister, one for the ministry and one for the school and also build a convenient meeting-house, and settle a learned and orthodox minister, within the town aforesaid. Sent up for concurrence.

Page 17 of Proprietors records:

The first meeting of the Proprietors of the Nichewaug settlement was held in Lancaster, Mass. May ye 10th, 1733 with Samuel Wil-  
lard, Moderator and William Lawrence, Clerk.

The second meeting of the Proprietors was called "in His Majesties Name" at Groton in Middlesex Co. at the house of James Parker on Tuesday the 30th day of October, 1733 at ten of the clock in the forenoon. At this meeting "voted to draw the Lotts and drafts are as followeth".

These lots were evidently located on the ranges of hills running north and south while the lowlands between were termed "common" or "undivided" land, until a later division. The lots numbering from one to thirty were located on the main thoroughfare of the town, five



## EARLY RECORDS

rods wide: those numbering from thirty-one to forty-seven, were located on the hills in the east side of the town and the "spring range lots;" the lots bearing the larger numbers are found on the hills in the west side of the town.

Incomplete records, and the fact there are four separate divisions of lots cause some confusion in making a perfect original map of the Proprietary of Nichewaug.

The dates of the land divisions are, according to the Proprietors Record:

- I. November, 1733 (Pr. 24)
- II. Sept. and Oct. 1733 (Pr. 54)
- III. May, 1740 (Pr. 82)
- IV. December 1753 (Pr. 231)
- V. May, 1770 (Pr. 323)

From Lancaster came a larger number of proprietors than from any other town, Joseph Stevens, Samuel Willard, John Bennett, John White, John Goss, Fairbank Moore, John Wilder, Moses Chandler, six Houghtons two Willsons, two Whitcombs and three Sawyers all came from Lancaster, and all had a vital part in our town's history. Jonathan Prescott who had a grist and saw mill in Lancaster was the first to build the mills here.

Sept. 11th, 1734. Voted that a committee be chosen to make ye way passable with carts from ye meeting-house place of ye aforesaid proprietary to ye meeting of ye paths yt. goes from Lancaster to the aforesaid proprietary grant, said meeting of ye paths is supposed to be five or six miles at this side of ye aforesaid meeting-house place.

Voted Moses How & Samuel Brown work out forty shillings for making ye way more passable from ye aforesaid Proprietors Meeting House place to Rutland.

Voted that Isaac Farnsworth and John Varnum be a committee in trust to and for ye proprietors to take bond of Jonas Houghton in ye sum of one hundred and fifty pounds, conditioned for aforesaid Houghton making ye road passable from Lancaster along ye north side of Wachusett Hill to ye meeting of ye path yt. goes along ye south side of aforesaid Wachusett Hill, ye meeting of said paths are near

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

a river called Burntshirt River, by ye first of May ensuing (1735).

This meeting was adjourned till the first Wednesday in June, to ye meeting-house place in ye aforesaid proprietary township of land at 8 of the clock in the morning.

Jeremiah Perley, Moderator      Wm. Richardson, Proprietors Clerk.  
(First town meeting to be held in this town.)

According to adjournment of ye above meeting, Proprietors are met at ye meeting-house place this first Wednesday of June, it being the fourth day thereof 1735.

On June 16th, 1736 occurs the first mention in the records of the name of Neachawog.

Mr. Willson says there were traces of an Indian hamlet here when the English came and that according to tradition this Indian settlement was mostly about the hill on which stands the dwelling of Thomas How, now known as the Gay Farm, and this hill bore the name of Nichewaug Hill.

"About this time a road was laid out through this township from Lancaster to Sunderland, on the Connecticut River, which was said to be a shorter way than any other between Boston and the Connecticut. Being very hilly however, it does not appear to have become much of a thoroughfare till location was changed somewhat. The plan of this road was reported to the Legislature in 1733. It was to run from Lancaster across Nashua River to Wachusett Pond, a little north of Wachusett Hill, eleven miles; thence through the Northern part of Rutland (now Hubbardstown) to the centre of "Volunteer's Township," fourteen miles; thence to Sunderland, twenty-three miles, passing through no township; making a distance from Lancaster to Sunderland forty-eight miles. The town of Shutesbury, for a time called "Roadtown" was a grant to the makers of this road, as a consideration for their service. A lot of land laid out to Samuel Sawyer, lying in the south-westerly part of Nichewaug is represented as being on the road to Roadtown."

# HOUSE LOTS.

Drawn October 1733 by		Recorded in the State House as settled in 1750 by	
Lot No. 1.	Samuel Fletcher	Edmund Bingham	
Lot No. 2.	Samuel Sawyer	Nathaniel Sanderson	
Lot No. 3.	Henry Willard		
Lot No. 4.	Peter Atherton	David Page	
Lot No. 5.	Abner Brown	Daniel Owen	
Lot No. 6.	Samuel Rugg	Isaac Ward	
Lot No. 7.	Samuel Willard		
Lot No. 8.	Joshua Webster		
Lot No. 9.	Jacob Perley	James Clemence	
Lot No. 10.	Jethro Eames	Nathan Goddard	
Lot No. 11.	Jeremiah Perley		
Lot No. 12.	Benjamin Walker	Zedekiah Stone	
Lot No. 13.	Samuel Tarbol	Jonas Farnsworth	
Lot No. 14.	James Houghton	Samuel Wilson	
Lot No. 15.	Minister's Lot	Rev. Aaron Whitney	
Lot No. 16.	Jacob Corey	Daniel Spooner	
Lot No. 17.	John Bennett	Jacob Wheeler	
Lot No. 18.	Ephraim Houghton	Christopher Page	
Lot No. 19.	Ephraim Farnsworth	Samuel Whittemore	
Lot No. 20.	John Goss		
Lot No. 21.	Jonathan Parling	Samuel Willard, Jr., Esq.	
Lot No. 22.	Richard Hall	Thomas Rogers	
Lot No. 23.	John Hazzen	Samuel Marble	
Lot No. 24.	Samuel Leonard		
Lot No. 25.	Joseph Reed or Rood	Ebenezer Hill	
Lot No. 26.	Henry Colburn	David Sanderson	
Lot No. 27.	Fairbank Moore	Joseph Marble	
Lot No. 28.	John Varnum	Jonathan Marble	
Lot No. 29.	Benoni Boynton		
Lot No. 30.	Jonathan Atherton		
Lot No. 31.	Jacob Eames	Samuel Gates	

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Lot No. 32.	John Wilder .....	John Wilder, Jr.
Lot No. 33.	John Baker or Bacon .....	David Lawson
Lot No. 34.	Abiel Foster .....	Eleazer Sanger
Lot No. 35.	Ezra Sawyer .....	
Lot No. 36.	Robert Ford .....	
Lot No. 37.	Edward Houghton .....	Daniel Miles
Lot No. 38.	Samuel Hilton or Wilton .....	Benjamin Chandler
Lot No. 39.	David Whitcomb .....	George Robbins
Lot No. 40.	Benjamin Gates .....	Sylvanus How
Lot No. 41.	Daniel Houghton .....	Simeon Houghton
Lot No. 42.	Samuel Brown .....	Aaron Allen
Lot No. 43.	Jonathan Ferrin .....	Daniel Duncan
Lot No. 44.	Moses Hazzen .....	
Lot No. 45.	Benjamin Barker .....	
Lot No. 46.	Reuben Farnsworth .....	William Negus
Lot No. 47.	Moses Chandler .....	
Lot No. 48.	Henry Houghton .....	
Lot No. 49.	William Spaulding .....	
Lot No. 50.	John White .....	Nathaniel Wilder
Lot No. 51.	Joseph Whitcomb .....	David Stone
Lot No. 52.	Samuel Shattuck .....	Charles Wilder
Lot No. 53.	Joshua Hutchins .....	
Lot No. 54.	John Lewiston .....	David Lawson, Jr.
Lot No. 55.	Willaim Huckins .....	
Lot No. 56.	Timothy Hail .....	
Lot No. 57.	Thomas Farmer .....	
Lot No. 58.	Aaron Rice .....	
Lot No. 59.	John Sawyer .....	Ephraim Rice
Lot No. 60.	Captain Jonas Houghton .....	John Stowell
Lot No. 61.	Samuel Stickney .....	
Lot No. 62.	John Duncan .....	Edward Allen
Lot No. 63.	Samuel Mossman .....	
Lot No. 64.	Jonathan Wilson .....	Isaac Hildrake
Lot No. 65.	Caleb Dalton .....	
Lot No. 66.	Joseph Wilson .....	Joseph Wilson



Arrival of the English Settlers, Petersham Pageant, August 31, 1923. Left to right: May Barnes (on horse), Emery Gray, Rev. Richard B. Grover, Charles W. Gates, Charles Gray, Susie Spinney, Sarah Gates, May H. Gray, Edith Russell, Fannie Prince, Lillian Hicks, Elizabeth MacNutt, Jennie Smith, Myrtle LePoer, Bernard LePoer, Lewis Babbitt.



## HOUSE LOTS

Lot No. 67.	Steven Merrill	Thomas Robbins
Lot No. 68.	Stephen Houghton	Nathaniel Stevens
Lot No. 69.	Oliver Pollard	Daniel Fisk
Lot No. 70.	Samuel Trull	Aaron Wilder
Lot No. 71.	Phineas Foster	Ebenezer Davis
Lot No. 72.	Jonathan Adams	

Although only forty-seven lots were reported officially in 1750 with the names of their owners, a study of the deeds reveal the following additions to that list.

1737 Jonathan Atherton deeds Lot No. 11 to Samuel Willard.

1748 Hugh Holland deeds the east half of Lot No. 29 to Aaron Wilder.

1748 Hugh Holland deeds the west half of Lot No. 29 to James Clemence.

1755 Twenty-seven acres of Lot No. 30 is taken for taxes by James Clemence.

1742 Timothy Moore deeds Lot. No. 36 to Samuel Willard.

1749 John Rugg of New Salem deeds Lot No. 44 to Edward Baker of Marlboro.

Ephraim Keith deeded Lot No. 48 to Daniel Spooner.

Daniel Spooner deeded Lot No. 49 to Samuel Dennis.

1751 Nathaniel Sherman settled on Lot No. 72 south of Chimney Hill.

1759 Joseph Roberts deeds Lot No. 65 to Alexander Calhoon on Thousand Acre Hill.

## DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE LOTS FROM EARLY PROPRIETORS' RECORDS

Lot No. 1—(Page 163) containing  $59\frac{1}{2}$  acres, lyeth in the North Quarter of town and in the east range of lots and bounds north, partly on Lot 27 and partly on common land, east it bounds on common land, south on Lot No. 2—and west it butts on a private way which runs across the end of it.

Lot No. 2—(Page 165—1736) Laid out to Peter Grout and contains 106 acres, lyeth in the north quarter of the town, east range of lots, and butts west on a private way, five rods wide, north on Lot No. 5, east on common land taking in a brook and part of a swamp, south on the 3rd lot.

Lot No. 3—(Page 173—1737) was drawn by Henry Willard, contains 50 acres in the north quarter of the town; bounds north on Lot No. 2 and south on Lot No. 4, west it butts on a private way which crosseth that end and east on common land and hath a brook crossing it near the east end. Private way across the west end is five rods wide.

Lot No. 4—(Page 170—1737) was drawn by Peter Atherton in the north corner or quarter of the town and bounds north on Lot No. 3 and south on Lot No. 5, west on a private way five rods wide and east on common land.

Lot No. 5—(Page 163—1736) 59 acres in the north quarter of the town east range of lots: bounds north on Lot 27 and common land, east on common land south on Lot No. 2, west on private way. (Page 208—Jan. 22nd, 1750). This plot contains 57 acres and, is laid out according to the bounds as at first laid out and owned by Dean Ward; bounded west on highway, north on houselot No. 4, east by land of Hardon, south on houselot No. 6.

Lot No. 6—(Page 172-1737) drawn by Samuel Rugg, North quarter of the town and in the east range of lots, 60 acres, bounds north on Lot No. 7, butts east on common land, west on a private way.

Lot No. 7—drawn by Samuel Willard, bounds north by 6th lot, south by 8th lot, west by private way east on common land, contains 73 acres.



## HOUSE LOTS

Lot No. 8—(Page 268 Apr. 22, 1751) Lyeth in the North quarter of said town and in the east range of lots, containing 66 a. and 128 rds. Bounds north on 7th lot, south on 9th lot, west on a Private way, east on Common land. It begins at the south west corner of 7th lot and runs with it east three degrees, taking in a part of the great hill or crossing the same, said lot drawn by Joshua Webster.

Lot No. 9—(Page 173-1737) was drawn by Jacob Perley, in the north quarter of the town and in the east range of lots, contains 69 a. and bounds; north on Lot No. 8, south on Lot No. 10, and partly on Lot No. 57, butts east on common land and west on a private way and the lot called the camp lot.

Lot No. 10—(Page 161, Nov. 26, 1736) drawn by Jethro Eames and lyeth in the east range of lots that leadeth into the North quarter of the town, and bounds, north on camp lot, so called, south on the 11th lot, contains 50 acres, east on the 57th lot and west on a private way.

Lot No. 11—(Page 161-Nov. 26-1736) was drawn by Jeremiah Perley and it lyeth in the east range of lots that leadeth into the North quarter of the town. Bounds North on 10th lot, south on the 17th lot. East on the private way and lyeth over said way against Lot 18.

Lot No. 12—(Page 172-July 4-1737) was drawn by Benjamin Walker, and lyeth in the west range of lots and is the third lot north from the place which was marked out for a meeting house to stand on, contains 68 a, 140 rods., bounded, north partly on common land, and partly on Lot No. 18, partly on Lot No. 5, south on Lot No. 13. West it butts on Lot 52, and east on the private way that leads into the north corner of the town sd lot has a running way across it to the meeting-house place, and up the north side of it from end to end, five rods wide which is included in the above said bounds, it hits the south east corner of Lot No. 18.

Lot No. 13—(Page 177-1738) drawn by Samuel Tarbel in the west range of lots and is the second lot from the lot which the place for the meeting house is to stand on is fixed and part of which is taken out of this lot. Bounds north on Lot No. 12 and south on Lot No. 14,

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

west it butts on Lot No. 52 and east on a way that leads into the North quarter of the town, called the North Street and it hath a road crossing of it to the meeting house place, contains 59 a. 60 rds. including said way and that taken out of it for a meeting house.

Lot No. 14—(Nov 26, 1736) was drawn by James Houghton and is the lot on which the Meeting House stands, bounds north on Lot No. 13, south on Lot No. 15, westerly it butts on Lot 52 and east on the street that runneth north. It contains 59 a. 40 rds., Includes the place for the Meeting House and road from it which runs south.

Lot No. 15—(Page 178-March 22, 1737) contains 63 a-120 rds. lying south of the place marked out for the Meeting House, and is the southern most lot of the west range lots, bounds south, partly on Lot No. 71, and partly on Lot No. 53, North on Lot 14, butts east on Town Way and west on Lot No. 52. It hath a way crossing of it that runs south of the Meeting House.

Lot No. 16—(Page 176-1738) drawn by Jacob Corey and lyeth in the east range of lots that lead to the north quarter, of the town and lyeth east over against the Meeting House place, bounds north on Lot No. 17, south on Lot No. 48, east it butts on common land, west on said private way. 60 acres.

Lot No. 17—(Page 167-Nov. 30th 1736) lyeth in the east range of lots that leads into the North quarter of the town, containing 60 acres. Bounds north on Lot No. 11 and south on Lot No. 16, east it butts on Lot No. 57, west on a private way that leads to the north corner of the town.

Lot No. 18—(Page 177-1738) containing 168 a-120 rds. was drawn by Ephriam Houghton, lyeth in the west range of lots in the North quarter of the town, is the third lot North from the Meeting House place, bounds North on Lot No. 19, south on Lot No. 12. It butts east on the town way, west on common land.

Lot No. 19—(Page 46-April 5, 1756) contains 66 a. and 19 rds. drawn by Ephriam Farnsworth, Bounds east on land that was reserved for a highway south on Lot No. 18, west on land of Ebenezer Bragg, North on Lot No. 20, Said lot lyeth north from the meeting house in the west range of lots.

## HOUSE LOTS

Lot No. 20—(Page 168-Rec. June 3-1737) containing 60 acres was drawn by John Goss and lyeth to the north of the Meeting House place, in the west range of lots, that leads into the north quarter of the town: bounds south partly on Lot No. 19, and partly on Lot No. 21: east on North Street west, on common land. A private way running across the east end thereof betwixt it and the marks, also a way of two rods wide down the north side thereof to the common land. The sixty acres, include said waies.

Lot No. 21—(Page 165-Rec. Nov. 1736) lyeth in the west range of lots in the north quarter of the town, bounds north on the 22nd lot and south on the 20th lot, but east on a way or street that leads to the north quarter of the town. West it but on common land and contains 55a.

Lot No. 22—No record found.

Lot No. 23 was drawn by John Hazzen and lyeth in the north quarter of the town in the west range of lots contains 53a bounds north on Lot 24, south on Lot 22 and but west on common land, east on a way or street that runs into the north corner of the town. (Page 214-Rec. Mar. 9, 1750.)

Lot No. 24—containing 58 acres, 155 rds. in the north quarter of the town, belonging to Timothy Whitney, drawn by Samuel Leonard.

Lot No. 25—(Page 47, Rec. 1748) 53 acres in the North part of the town, bounds east on highway, south on lot No. 24, west on equivalent belonging to Mr. Varney. North on Lot No. 26.

Lot No. 26—Bounds not found, but this record on Page 11. Laid out a road from David Sanderson's house lot No. 26 to Pequig, said road butting on Joseph Marbles lot No. 27 and Jonathan Marble's lot No. 28.

Lot No. 27—(Page 163, rec. Nov. 1736). In the north quarter of the town, crosseth the road that leadeth north, and bounds north on Lot No. 28, south partly on Lot 26 and partly on Lot No. 1, but west on common land, east partly on said way and partly on common land.

Lot No. 28—(Page 205-1744) was drawn by John Varnum and lyeth in the north end of the west range of lots, crosseth the north

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

road or streets, bounds south on Lot 27 and every where else on common land.

Lot No. 29—Not found.

Lot No. 30—(Page 170, rec. 1737) contains 63 acres, was drawn by Jonathan Atherton and lyeth on the west side of a meadow where the Proprietors built a camp. It bounds westerly on Lot No. 29 and every other way on common land.

Lot No. 31—(Page 189 rec. May 1740) contains 75a drawn by Jacob Eames, in the east quarter of the town and most southerly lot in the spring range. It is the lot in which Chandler's camp is located. Bounds north on Lot No. 33 south on common land, and land left for a town way, west it butts on Lot 54 and east on Lot 40.

Lot No. 32—(Page 179-rec. 1740) contains 63 acres and 70 rds. was drawn by John Wilder in the east quarter of the town and crosseth a small brook that runneth into Moccasin Brook a little below the meadow. Bounds southerly partly on the lot in which is Chandler's camp. North on Lot 33, west on Lot 54, east, it butts on common land: one point of bounds is a spring.

Lot No. 33—Not found.

Lot No. 34—(Page 174-1737) drawn by Abel Foster, east quarter of the town, is the fourth in that range and taketh in the bed of the Spring and bounds south on Lot No. 33, North on Lot 35, butts east on Lot No. 37 and west on common land.

Lot No. 35—(Page 250-rec. Apr. 1740) 105 acres, the 5 acres for a highway through said lot, and 100 acres is laid out to Ezra Sawyer upon his original right and is for the 3rd. division to House lot No. 35 lying in the south easterly part of Nichewaug, easterly on a hill known as rattle snake hill: bounds easterly on said Sawyer and on land laid out to Moses How, westerly on land belonging to heirs of Capt. Houghton. Northerly on lands of Belnap and Daggitt, southerly on lands of Mr. Keith and Mr. Frink.

Lot No. 36—(Page 169—1737) Drawn by Robt. Ford in the east quarter of the town in the Spring range of lots north of the Spring. Bounds south on the lot No. 35, north on Lot 55. East it butts Lot 45, west on common land. A private way the whole south side, five rods

## HOUSE LOTS

wide.

Lot No. 37—(Page 175—Sept. 1738) was drawn by Edward Houghton in east quarter of town and lyeth across ye Lot No. 34 and 35 and on part of ye hed of Lot 33. Bounds west on ye heds of ye above sed lots, east on Lot 44, South it butts partly on Lot No. 33 and partly on common land north, partly on Lot 45 and partly on Lot 36.

Lot No. 38—(Page 268—1734) Laid out to Moses Chandler, seventy acres, Bounded every way on common land.

Lot No. 39—(Pages 167 and 175—1737) was drawn by David Whitcomb in the east quarter of the town and on south side Moccasin Meadow: bounds North on the Meadow, south and east on common land, west it butts on Lot No. 41.

Lot No. 40—contains 76 acres was drawn by Benjamin Gates in the east quarter of the town, and crosseth Moccasin Brook just below the meadow, bounds east on common land, north it butts on Lot No. 32 and south on common land near Lot No. 41.

Lot No. 41—contains 62 acres was drawn by Daniel Houghton and lyeth on the north side of Chimney Hill and crosseth Moccason Brook, bounds north and east mostly on common land saving at the west corner of Chandler's Camp lot and is cut off by it and a way that goeth between them.

Lot No. 42—(Page 202—1739) 114 acres, laid out to Jonathan Prescott on original right of Samuel Brown's House lot No. 42. Bounds north on his own land, southerly on town line, westerly on common land.

Lot No. 43—(Page 199—1739) 125 acres, laid out to Jonathan Prescott on original right of Jonathan Ferrin House lot No. 43, bounded northerly and westerly on Houselots and every other way on common land.

Lot No. 44—(Page 207—1749) 60 acres, 90 rds. drawn by Moses Hazzen, easterly part of town. Bounds westerly and southerly on Daniel Miles and Nehemiah Coy, North on land belonging to heirs of Jonathan Houghton, east on 2nd div. land.

Lot No. 45—Not found.

Lot No. 46—(Page 164—1734) laid out to Jabez Bomon and

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Abraham Moore, 70 acres of land in leu of the first lot No. 46. Bounded north on Capt. Jonas Houghton's lot and every other way on common land. (Conflicting records.)

Lot No. 47—(Page 166—1736) on west side of a meadow where the Proprietors built a camp. Bounds north on Lot No. 29 and every other way on common land.

Lot No. 48—(Page 167—1736) 78 acres drawn by Henry Houghton and lyeth in the east range of lots in the North quarter of the town. Bounds north on Lot No. 16 south on Lot 49, east it butts on common land, west on a private way that leads into the north quarter of the town and lyeth over against the house lot laid out for the meeting house lot.

Lot No. 49—(Page 165—1744) 75 acres, drawn by William Spaulding, bounds north and west on land of Mr. Keith, south on Joseph Chamberlain's land, east on 2nd. division of Wm. Chandler. Allowance for a highway across the west end.

Lot No. 50—which was drawn by John White and thrown down again is the lot which Benj. Chamberlain has taken for a first lot to the right of John Dunkin in order to be entered in the Proprietor's Book Page 160—It is the south lot in the east range of lots that butt on a private way that leads into the North corner of the town and contains 95 acres and 100 rods. Bounds north on Lot No. 40, south on common land, west on Lot No. 53, (Page 160—rec. Jan. 3, 1774).

Lot No. 51—(Page 177—1738) Drawn by Joseph Whitcomb, lyeth north west from the Meeting house place, bounds south partly on Lot No. 52 and partly on Lot No. 12, every other way on common land,  $87\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Lot No. 52—(Rec. June 1735) Samuel Shattuck throw down his lot No. 52 and took up Lot No. 60 which Jonas Houghton draw and throw down.

Lot No. 53—(Page 207—1749) drawn by Joshua Hutchins, lyeth south from the place marked out for the Meeting House and on the east side of a private way that leads into the south from the Meeting house place; bounds west on said way 200 rds. east it butts on common land about 50 rds. and 100 rds. on Lot No. 50 and 50 rds. on Lot

## HOUSE LOTS

No. 49. North it butts about 60 rds. on Lot No. 15 and on a town way about 17 rds. on Lot No. 49 and 3 rds. on Lot No. 59, South it butts on common land.

Lot No. 54—(Page 287—1795) Bounds west and south and east by houselots No. 41 and 31—32 and 33. North by the 4th div. lot No. 19.

Lot No. 55—(Rec. Page 169—June 4, 1737) 120 acres, drawn by William Huckins and lyeth in the east quarter of the town and is the Northern most lot save one in the spring range of lots and lyeth against the lower end of the meadow eastward thereof. Bounds south on Lot 36. North partly on Lot 56 and partly on common land East it butts on Lot 46 and common land, west on common land.

Lot No. 56—(Page 209—April 1741) contains 75 acres and laid out to Samuel Willard on the original right of Timothy Hail. Bounds southerly on Willards own land, easterly on common land, north-east on town line, westerly on land of Jabez Puffer.

Lot No. 57—(176—1738) was drawn by Thomas Farmer, lyeth on the east ends of lots No. 11 and 17 betwix that and the Brook that comes from the North east part of the town, and bounds west on the lots above mentioned, east partly on common land and partly on the brook, butts North on Lot No. 9, South on common land.

Lot No. 58—Not found.

Lot No. 59—Not found.

Lot No. 60—(Page 261-2—1741) Westerly part of town, belonging to heirs of Jonas Houghton. Bounded south on Ezra Sawyer, westerly and northerly on Mr. Cushing.

120 acres laid out to Job Cushing upon the original right of John Lewiston, westerly part of town.

Lot No. 61—Not found.

Lot No. 62—(Page 47—Feb. 1735) North part of town laid out to Benj. Chamberlain on original right of John Dunkin laid out adjoining the north west line of Rutland. Sd lot was changed according to ye liberty given ye Proprietors of ye township which lies south west from ye meeting house and bounds easterly on lands of Jonas Houghton and Jabez Bowman. Northerly on John Wilder, westerly

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

on common land and Jonas Houghtons, southerly on sd Houghton's land and undivided land.

Lot No. 63—(1737) Drawn by heirs of Samuel Mossman, and lyeth in the west quarter of the town at a place called Thousand Acre Hill and is the most westerly lot in the range, bound east on Lot 65.

Lot 64—(Page 197—1742) Drawn by Jonathan Willson and lyeth on the Thousand Acre Hill and lyeth across the other lotts at the south end of them and bounds north on the three wester most of them, south, east and west on common land.

Lot No. 65—(Page 214—1755) 94 a 80 rds. drawn by Caleb Dolton, west part of town on Thousand Acre Hill, bound west on land of Capt. Flint, south on land of William Daggett, east on land of Revd. Mr. Roberts.

Lot No. 66—(Page 161—May 1735) 70 acres laid out to Joseph Willson bounds south on Moses Chandler and every other way on common land.

Lot No. 67—(1737) 140 acres, bounds west on Lot 66 and every other way on undivided land. It lies mostly on a hill, west and north from the Meeting house lot about two miles.

Lot No. 68—(Page 162—1736) one mile and 60 rods, from the south Meetinghouse lot. Bounds west on land left for a highway, and on every other way by undivided land.

Lot No. 69—(Page 173—March 1738) 80 acres drawn by Oliver Pollard, bounds north on Lot 7, east on land left for a highway, south and west on undivided land.

Lot No. 70—(Page 166—1736) Bounded north on Lot 71, east on highway, south on Lot 69, west on undivided land.

Lot No. 71—(Page 166—1736) 68a. Bounds north on Lot No. 15 and common land east on Highway, south on Lot No. 70, west on undivided land.

Lot No. 72—(Page 269—1751) lyeth southward from Chimney Hill and is bounded round by common land, 87 a 80 rds. (Page 180) Lot of 105 acres laid out to Nathaniel Sherman upon the original right of Jonathan Adams, 2nd. division to House lot No. 72, Bounds west on land laid out to Jonathan Prescott. Northerly on house lot No.



## *HOUSE LOTS*

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**72.** Easterly on common land and town line. Southerly on common land.

## EARLY SETTLERS

*" We have a goodly heritage, which must be conserved, and if possible, increased for the sake of those who come after us."*

Rev. Frederick R. Griffin.

It was in October 1733 that the house lot numbers were drawn by the seventy-two Proprietors including the one set aside for the use of the minister, and probably as early as the spring of 1734 the male members of the families were on hand to begin their various settlements. The grist and sawmills were the first essential; Mr. Jonathan Prescott of Littleton was allowed one hundred acres of land on the east side of Sherman Hill as a compensation. Messrs Joseph Whitcomb, Jonathan Houghton, and Daniel Houghton built, or caused to be built, the sawmills near the present site of Connors Pond and were granted eighty acres lying between that and Jonathan Prescott's, probably including the section of Rutland Brook, and Chimney Hill, binding under the agreement that they would keep the mill in repair for ten years and for the same length of time, sell good pitch pine boards for forty shillings (\$9.75) a thousand or to saw "to the halves for all persons who brought their logs to the mills". As both of these pieces of land were in the possession of Prescott when it was surveyed in 1738, it is likely he was employed to build the sawmill as well as the gristmill. The above agreement was apparently kept for the specified ten years and perhaps more, but, evidently, either the low price for labor or too much acreage, perhaps both, proved more than Prescott could manage, for in 1752 he mortgaged 712 acres to Daniel Fletcher, who in 1769 transferred the claim to James Bowdoin of Boston, who in 1770 deeded the tract to John Chandler and William Barron, two wealthy Tories who had just settled here. John Chandler had built his mansion at the corner of the Athol and Templeton roads, a mile north of the village and now owned by Irwin P. Dorward of Worcester. Wm. Barron had built his home on the above mentioned tract, later known as the Brewer place and burned May 12, 1939. A survey of the tract was made, and in 1771 Wm. Barron



Quaker House. Built by William Barron, a Tory, about 1760. Owned by Samuel Brewer, Quaker, 1833.  
Burned May 12, 1939.



## EARLY SETTLERS

sold his share to John Chandler. Trouble against England was brewing and in 1777 this tract of land was confiscated by the colonies as other lands of the Tories were confiscated. About ten years later, the mill privilege in the valley was purchased, with several acres of land, by Frederick, Wm. and Andrew Brown, who in 1815 sold it to Micajah Reed. In 1835 he sold it to Elbridge Miles who continued the grist and sawmill business which had been substituted by the business of cloth manufacture during the ownership of the Browns and Reeds. Alfred Carruth and Avery Williams were later operators of the mills and early in the 19th century, Lucius Spooner operated a manufactory for scythes and hay forks.

Apparently Henry Houghton never came to claim his share of land, located east and south east of the village, for in 1738 Jonathan Houghton of Lancaster deeded it to Ephraim Keith of Bridgewater, whose name is entered in our church records as drawing fifty shillings on June 16th 1736 "for three preaching past". In this deed as recorded, "certain tracts or parcels of land in White's town, so called, adjoining Rutland township, 48th lot already laid out near the meeting-house." In 1746 Ephraim Keith deeded about 150 acres east and South East of the village to Daniel Spooner of Dartmouth, Mass., who evidently lived three or four years in Hardwick before becoming a permanent resident of this town, having come into possession of 220 acres of land in the south west portion of the town. Daniel Spooner was a joiner by trade, and the father of a large family of children, several of the sons being settled on the lands of their father. In 1759 Daniel Spooner sold a tract of land a half mile west of the village to his son Wing, who built his house in 1762 and it is now in the possession of Mrs. Caroline Harris of the fifth generation, (Benjamin Spooner 4th, Stevens 3rd, Wing, Jr. 2nd Wing 1st), the only land kept continuously in the family to the present time. In 1760 he deeded the section later known as Sackett's Harbor to the son Phillip who married Elizabeth Winslow of Hardwick and kept the property for thirty years. In 1759 the son Ruggles Spooner was deeded a large tract of land east of the village, half way to Swift River, who kept it twenty-seven years when it was sold to Robt.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Goddard in whose family it remained about one hundred years. In 1760 the son Shearjashub, married Sarah Whipple of Hardwick and received 30 acres east of the meeting-house, which he kept in his possession for about twenty years when it became the property of Simon Whitney, in whose family it remained about one hundred years. When Phillip's son, Clapp Spooner, was married in 1783 his grandfather deeded to him, half the paternal mansion and lands, which he owned about fifty years; at present it is the summer residence of John B. Paine of Weston. The son Eliakim was granted land in Petersham but perhaps never lived here after his marriage to Bathsheba Warner of Hardwick in 1764, for after keeping a tavern in Hardwick for three years they moved to Westminster, Vermont. Deacon Daniel Spooner married his wife Mrs. Mary Dean of Hardwick in 1780.

In 1761 Daniel Spooner deeded 22 acres to John Herbert, with a sawmill, gristmill and dam, and a 3 rod road passing through the tract. In 1764, Elizabeth Claflin, widow of Cobert Claflin deeded 120 acres to John Herbert, and the following year 1765 John Herbert deeded the above tracts with mill privileges to David Allen. These holdings were considerably increased by purchases from James Clement, on Pople Camp Brook, above the mills and from Ruggles Spooner below the mills, and in 1772, David Allen deeded the entire tract to John Chandler. Owing to a law respecting rights of dower, these homestead lands were not confiscated, but John Chandler had deemed it expedient to sail for England with the British troops when they evacuated Boston, and about ten years later died in England. In 1794, the heirs of the late John Chandler, including John, Jr., Clark, Nathaniel and Lydia conveyed 57 acres to Joseph Brown, one mile east of the meeting-house. In 1814, Captain Joseph Brown received the estate by will from his uncle Col. Joseph Brown and it remained in his family about seventy-five years when purchased by Robert Willson of Cambridge, now the summer residence of Mrs. Martha Willson Day. Use of the mills was discontinued about 1880.

According to tradition, Peter Gore, the half breed Indian much respected by the early English settlers, last lived in a hut on the south

## EARLY SETTLERS

side of the Hubbardston road, between Roaring Brook, and Robert Wilson's barn, and in bearing out this tradition, we find a deed of three-fourth of an acre of land given in 1786 by Peter Gore to Reuben Ned of Hardwick, who married Susannah Wait Gore in 1785. This land is described as three cornered, and bounded south-west on Rugles Spooner, southeast on John Chandler, and north on the Hubbardston Road, the west corner on the road being a large rock, and the land had upon it a dwelling and a stable. In 1805, Reuben Ned of Wardsburg, Vermont, deeded this three fourths acre to Joseph Brown.

In 1762, Daniel Houghton of Bolton, deeded to his beloved son, Simeon Houghton, 250 acres, which is the whole of Lot 41 with all its later division. This lot was on the west side of Chimney Hill, and the family of Simeon and his wife Jerusha were living there in 1750. Among their several children were twins born July 26th 1751, named Zarah and Pharez. In 1791 Simeon deeded his real estate to these two sons in equal shares dividing, even, the ownership of the house and barn, that were evidently situated at the end of a lane leading from a highway. In 1802 all the heirs of Pharez, including his widow Jemima, Simeon and Daniel Houghton and Jerusha Dean, and the minor daughters, Esther, Caroline, Matilda and Lucretia, all deeded their rights to Zarah Houghton. These twins Zarah and Pharez were both soldiers in the Revolutionary War. The son of Zarah, Israel Houghton 2nd, married Fanny Hammond in 1814 and continued to live on his grandfather's home place till 1833, when they moved to the Hammond farm in the east part of the town near Bassett's Corner. Thomas Houghton, son of Zarah, lived nearer the Hubbardston road on the Quaker Drive.

Lot No. 40, allotted to Benjamin Gates was an extensive tract, with its apparent boundaries extending to Swift River on the west, the Prescott lands on the south, the Houghton, Stevens and Baker lands on the east and the road to Templeton or Narrigansett No. 6 on the north. In 1749, John Sawyer deeded 75 acres of this tract to Samuel Gates and 76 acres to Sylvanus How, both of Marlboro. The portion owned by Samuel Gates has remained in the Gates family un-

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til October 1938, following the death of the last Gates owner, Charles W. Gates (4), (Charles, 3; John 2; Samuel, 1). For thirtytwo years Charles W. Gates was treasurer of the town, and he was a respected official of the Congregational Church, for many years. His father, an influential citizen conducted an extensive palm-leaf business in town and for four years manufactured shaker hoods in the building where the "Corner Store" is located.

The Sylvanus How farm has always been one of the leading farms of the town; its first owner, being an enthusiastic Patriot, furnished large quantities of beef and grain to the armies in the Revolution beside loaning large sums of money to the town and state for the continuance of the war. Upon a portion of this Gates tract is another productive and extensive farm which was owned for several years by Thomas Beaman, a Tory who lost his property by confiscation in 1777, but ten years later, 1787, the federal agents, Fessenden and Caleb Amidon sold it to Samuel Bryant who had been located on Loring hill near the Barre line for twenty-five years coming there in 1760. For one hundred years, five generations of Bryants lived on this homestead and to the present day have contributed to the town of Petersham many citizens of the firmest integrity. Samuel, (1) Joel (2) Artemas (3), George and Frederick (4), Walter (5).

About 1885, Phillip Gale purchased this farm of the Bryants and its efficient management is continued through the family of his son, George B. Gale.

The entire eastern angle of the town was first taken up by the descendants of Simon Willard, the Wilder and Stevens families, with Asa How of Marlboro bounding his kindred Sylvanus How on the east, Nathaniel Wilder, heading the church register in 1738, evidently owned extensive domains, bounding on the Rutland (or Barre) line. These were transferred in due course of time to his son Charles. Bordering on the Northern town line, Narregansett No. 6 (later Gerry and Phillipston) we find John and Prudence Wilder of Lancaster, whose possessions descended to Cornelius 2 and Artimas 3; therefore for one hundred and ten years these three generations owned the homestead farm on Narrow Lane and Wolf Hill. Between Na-



## EARLY SETTLERS

thaniel and John, we find Nathaniel's son Jerathmeel who owned less acreage but came the same year as John, 1741. Aaron Wilder a younger son of Nathaniel was a church member in 1744, but seems to have settled for a few years south west of the center.

About 1755 four Bouker brothers came from Shrewsbury and settled the town west of the Wilder families and south of Joseph Stevens who had located between Sylvanus How and John Wilder. Silas bought a few acres on the eastern portion of the Thomas Beaman farm, John owned a larger territory east of Silas and extending north to the Templeton road. Ezekiel, bought land south of Hubbardston road, Jotham owned land south of Ezekiel and between Nathaniel Wilder on the east and Simeon Houghton on the west, later owned by Enoch Hammond. Col. Ephraim Stearns, valient fighter for the colonists, was in town as early as 1766 and was located at the top of the hill 1½ miles east of village.

In Feb. 1750. George Robbins deeded 50 acres to Edward Allen being the westerly part of lot drawn by Moses Chandler, and the following November, this same 50 acres was deeded by Edward Allen to Seth Hapgood, probably the first land held by the Hapgood family in Petersham, and was deeded by Seth to his son Eber in 1794.

September 25th 1778 Silas Bouker of Petersham petitions the house of representatives, showing, that he, with William Barron and Thomas Beaman as sureties on bond given to Harvard College, executed to them an absolute deed of 40 acres, in said town, taking no other surety to title than their word of honor to return title of said land to petitioner (Silas Bouker) whenever he should pay the money on the bond. William Barron, according to his promise, has executed a sufficient deed on his part, but Thomas Beaman, having absented himself from this state and gone over to the enemy, the petitioner hath appealed to Jonathan Grout, agent on Beaman's estate to release the said land, which Grout thinks he is not impowered to do without special order of the court. This was consented to by a major part of the court, and by that order, Jonathan Grout deeded 40 acres to Silas Bouker, Sept. 26, 1778. In 1783 this same farm of 40 acres came into the possession of Ezekiel Bouker.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Although lot No. 7 drawn by Samuel Willard was not reported as being settled in 1750 he evidently bought several lots soon after the settlement of the town, and in 1744 he and his wife Susannah were admitted to the church, evidently residents of the town. He owned the northeast borders of the town, including the lands sold to Samuel Frizzel in 1754, last occupied as the town-farm. Between the Willard tract on the north and the Templeton road on the south was a large tract owned, by William Belknap, west of which was the tract owned by Joshua Willard. In 1774 David Lawson of Greenwich deeded the place west of Pople Camp brook, on the north side of Templeton road to Dr. Ephraim Whitney who the same year deeded it to David Hammond. It was during its occupancy by Hammond that Mother Ann Lee of England, visited it in the interest of Shakerism, in a meeting referred to by Rev. Edmund B. Wilson in his address and by Sarah How in her diary as elsewhere recorded.

Rev. E. B. Willson records that Joshua Willard took the farm of his brother Samuel in 1757 when Samuel died; both Joshua and Samuel were sons of Col. Samuel Willard of Lancaster, the original proprietor who drew Lot No. 7.

William Willard, son of Reverend Samuel Willard, born in Biddeford Maine, married Katherine Wilder of Lancaster in 1763, and probably settled in Petersham about that time. Although they were Tories the family continued its ownership for about one hundred and twenty-five years, when the farm was purchased by Edwin C. Dexter of Troy, N. Y., and Fred Gooding of Waltham.

The tract of land north of the Village, belonging to Zedekiah Stone, not only included the farm set off to his son David in 1753 but also the great area north of it deeded to Ebenezer Bragg, later known as the Littlefield farm, where Dea. William Blodgett last lived, as well as the tract later owned by Dr. Ephraim Whitney, followed by Hutchins Hapgood. North of these large tracts owned by Stone and Jacob Wheeler was the Willard tract, a part of which was purchased by John Chandler, 1760 and 1765.

Although Thomas Rogers, who married Martha Hubbard of Worcester in 1742, first settled in the southwest section of the town,

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west of the Swift River, and below the bridge, he evidently moved before 1760 to what is known as the McFarland place, near the head of Tom's Swamp, and his son, Frederick Rogers, was established at the present Waldo place before 1790 running a tavern, which was used by the town as a hospital for small-pox patients during the Revolution.

On the highest point of cultivated land in town, a few hundred feet north of the Waldo Place, Dr. John Trumbull of Worcester built a mansion about 1785 to meet his wife's requirements that her home in Petersham must equal the best built house in Worcester. The same year that Dr. Trumbull built his house, Hon. Jonathan Grout bought the property on the opposite side of the Great Way and took up his residence there.

In 1741 Silas Walker deeded lot No. 26 on the west side of the street at the top of Mann Hill to David Sanderson and the lot No. 2 on the east side of the street to Nathaniel Sanderson later owned for shorter periods, by Jesse Goodnow and Aaron Brooks, purchased by Rev. Joseph Farrar, 1793, whose descendants are still operating one of the best farms in the town. Anna, daughter of Joseph Farrar, Jr., married Lysander Wilder in 1839 and they became the grandparents of the present owner, George K. Wilder.

George Felton's family was located at the present Country Club about 1770.

In 1803, Capt. Joel Brooks of Grafton bought the property at the top of Mann Hill and it was there that some of their sons and daughters were born. His brother Aaron, also of Grafton had married Sally Grout, daughter of Jonathan Grout in 1789, and lived in a house south of and near the present George Wheeler house.

Near the foot of Mann Hill on the west side, the Tory, Thomas Beaman once dwelt, followed by Daniel Duncan and later by Dana Knowlton. On the east side of the road near the foot of the hill dwelt the families of Solomon and Moses Holman, later Lucius Holland, lived there, and it is now owned by Walter Bryant. Elisha Ward of Shrewsbury came to Petersham in 1764 and settled on the north side of Bennett Hill more recently known as the French place, which was in the Ward family about seventy-five years, as Henry Ward suc-

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ceeded his father in ownership. The Schoolmaster, Ensign Mann who married Alice Whitney, the daughter of the Tory Minister in 1773, built his house near the junction of the present Athol road and the discontinued section over Bennett Hill, and the property is still owned by his descendants. Joshua Willard came into the possession of the land at the extreme north end of the town and in 1774, Capt. Park Holland purchased the place near the town line that was the scene of an encampment of Shays' men on the night of Feb. 4, 1787. It was in the Holland family only about fifteen years, when it was purchased in 1801 by William Davenport of Sutton, blacksmith. Next followed his son Joel, whose son David continued to live on the home place while Joel's son Abel lived on the New Sherborn road and owned the first circular saw in town. About 1900, Augustus and his two sisters, Lucretia and Letitia, lived on the home place, which was later occupied by their nephew Frank, who was followed by his son Edward, in whose possession it was when it was burned Dec. 19, 1932. The Abel Davenport, who married Sally Nigh of Barre in 1789 and Jerome who married Polly Brook of Athol 1807, also John who married Eunice Hawes of Barre 1786 evidently lived in town but have not yet been located.

Joshua Willard sold the tract of land south of the Holland property to Thomas Jackson in 1767, later it came into the possession of the Chamberlains and Wheelers. In 1829 Abel Davenport deeded to Caleb Sprague the property on the New Sherborn road, near the Ensign Mann place.

Near the north end of Tom's Swamp, on the west side of it, were located water-powered sawmills operated in 1850 by Southworth Brothers of Hardwick and a William Gilson, for sawing the lumber for the town house built that year, but the region north of the Tom Swamp road was owned earlier by William Peirce, Thomas Clement and Levi Babbitt. Further to the northwest where A. D. Salkeld now lives, dwelt George Walker who built the house in 1840, later occupied for fifty years by Simeon Burrage.

In 1773 Jonathan Johnson and Rachel Felton of Worcester were married and had nine sons, Aaron, Amos, Daniel, George, Henry,

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John, Jonathan, Levi and William. Deciding that Petersham offered greater advantages than Worcester for a growing family, the father bought a tract of land between the lower Athol road and what was, later, the Monson Turnpike and north of the stage road to Greenfield. Early in the 19th Century we find that locality owned almost exclusively by these Johnson sons, though William later located in Orange.

The parental homestead was a few rods north of the north west school house, district No. 10 where Jonathan Junior and his wife Melinda Wheeler lived after their marriage in 1801, as did their son Rufus W., who was born in 1823. Aaron married Betsey Crossett on Nov. 29, 1804, and built his house opposite the Crossett homestead about half a mile north of his father's on the lower Athol road. Daniel lived nearer the town line where Winnie Ball now lives. Henry married Lucy Clement, April 20, 1820, and lived beyond the Athol line.

William married Nancy Rogers, Sept. 28th, 1816 and lived near Athol Street. Amos, married Polly Knapp Oct. 18th 1807 and lived on the Luther Holland place north west of village; their daughter, Rachel married Samuel Towne, April 3rd, 1834. Asa, son of Aaron Johnson, was living on the Alvin Tufts place in 1855.

In 1790 William Willard, Jr. married Sarah Holmes of Worcester and settled near the Athol line on the Monson Turnpike; their son Holmes Willard continued in possession of the property until it was purchased by Joseph Collins Smith about 1875. The homestead south of the William Willard property on the Turnpike was owned by Jeremiah Deane, and his family for many years, last owned by George Stiles. South of Jeremiah Deane's, at the junction of the Turnpike, and the North New Salem road, were the homes of the Gales, Daniel, Jesse, and Nahum, during the early part of the last century, formerly owned by their father, Daniel Gale from 1780. A half mile south of Gale's Corner, stood a toll-house, last owned by Lot Stone, previously by his father Gardner Stone and grandfather Samuel Stone. On a discontinued road, that crossed the Turnpike near the Stones, were the homes of Rev. William Goddard and his son-in-law, Daniel Robinson. On the east side of the corner and a half mile west of the

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Turnpike, were located Joel Wheeler as early as 1760 and later, Harrison Bancroft.

Rev. Edmund Willson says that before 1790 there were only three houses west of our village within the first mile; the first one, occupied by Wing Spooner, the second, at the foot of the hill, occupied by Amos Stone, later by his son Samuel, and the third house owned by Joseph Gleason, the elder, later owned by Francis Parsons. In 1764, Isaac Gleason deeded half his property to Joseph Gleason who in 1806 deeded half his property to Curtis Gleason.

The two Gleason houses, now owned by Gabriel Recos were built as early as 1800, later owned by Isaac Ayers and son George. As late as 1819, the widow Mary G. Parmenter, built her house opposite the Stevens Spooner place and before 1860 her two sons Horatio and Joseph G. had built most of the houses between their mother's house and the village.

The tract of land owned by Isaac Hildreth in the early days of the towns settlement lay west of the Gleason tract, and included some of Thousand Acre Hill and the land south of it. It was later divided among the sons of later generations, including Isaac Jr., John and John Jr., Elijah, and Elijah, Jr., and Clark Hildreth. John Peckham who first located in the center of the town bought land extensively in the west part of town in 1787 taking some of the Hildreth and Gleason tracts.

The land purchased by Jacob Amsden in 1780 was located south and west of the Hildreth tract, and much of it later became a part of the town of Dana.

Henry Bosworth of Bristol, R. I. came to Petersham about 1775 and first settled on the north side of the road near Francis Parson's then bought an 80 acre lot near the Turnpike.

On Thousand Acre Hill, more recently known as Ball Hill, there were many families who settled there early. In 1747, Thomas Flint bought 90 acres and twenty years later his son Capt. Elisha Flint took his father's property, which was deeded to Caleb Willis Jr. in 1802.

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In 1751 Isaac Hildreth sold 138 acres to William Daggett on Thousand Acre Hill. Silas Cross was located there in the 1780's and Carver Wood about 1800. Alexander Calhoun was located on Thousand Acre Hill as early as 1760 and his son Samuel's family as late as 1812. Phineas Peabody lived there as early as 1814 and Calvin Peabody till about 1850.

Beyond the Monson Turnpike on the Millington road, Tarrant Sibley owned the first tract of land early in the last century, and west of him was the Indian Camp section on the north side of the road, and Nathan Dudley and his son John on the south side of the road, later owned by John Mason and Jonas Bancroft now the State Reservation. In the extreme corner of the town dwelt Shiverack Weeks, Artemas Crowl, Lucius Sibley, George Hatstat, and several years later, Eleazer Estey and George Ellis.

In the southwest section of the town, the house built by Jonathan Hunter and now owned by heirs of Jarius Williams is the oldest, the two houses near by were later occupied by the Grosvenor brothers, David and Rufus.

In 1748 Stephen Osgood deeded a great tract of land to Edward Goddard of Shrewsbury, who in 1774 deeded it to his son Robert who settled upon it, and in 1797 deeded it to his son Stephen who built the house, now the Edward Knapp homestead, Stephen deeded it to his son, Stephen Dwight in 1834, who in 1861 deeded it to his son Sewell C. Goddard. To his son Nathaniel, Robert Goddard deeded land on the east side of the road; he probably built his house there about 1809. To his son Joel, Robert deeded the southernmost portion of his farm, probably about 1786 and thirty years later Joel deeded it to his son Ashbel who deeded it to his son William P. Goddard; later owned by Charles S. Coolidge.

South of the tract owned by the Goddard families was the one on the east side of Hardwick road owned by Benjamin Whitney, later by David Dickinson, Daniel Hawks, and Joshua Pillsbury. Clarence Amidon is the present owner. On the west side of Hardwick road, a one hundred acre farm was owned by James Babcock and his wife Hannah both born in New Braintree. In 1843 this place was deed-

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ed to Nathaniel Cook who soon deeded it to Orasa Coolidge when he married Susan Carter Delvee in 1850. Their seven sons and three daughters were all born in the old Babcock house, but in 1880 they built a larger house, now owned by Robert Newbury.

Samuel Cook settled near the center of Turkey Hill at the junction of the Hardwick road and the one to Dana Center, deeding his home place to his son Nathaniel while his son William built a home nearby, in 1824, later owned by Elbridge Stone and his son Herbert Stone.

The homestead at present owned by Henry Jewett Green belonged, in the 1790's and early part of the last century, to John Carter who married Ruth Goodnow, daughter of Benjamin Goodnow who lived on the west side of Three Penny Morris Hill. Near the southern brow of Turkey Hill, dwelt Caleb Chamberlain, son of Samuel Jr., who later sold his farm to Jetson Spooner the owner of a mill on Swift River. Under the great elm near the foot of the hill, was the home of Edward Babbitt who came with Elias Hill about 1812 to continue the mill business on Swift River, that for twenty-five years had been carried on by Seth and Elisha Woodward. Before that date the mills were operated by Nathan Edson, and Jonathan Marble whose house and mills were west of the Hardwick road and near the confluence of Turkey Hill Brook and Swift River. In 1766 Nathan Edson sold his mills to Daniel Hale. About 1770 Samuel Dennis a Baptist minister and an ardent Federalist bought the tract of land south of Swift River that had not already come into the possession of Earl Flagg who came from Framingham in 1736.

From the "History of Hardwick" by Lucius Page, we learn that Samuel Dennis came from Sutton to Petersham where he preached several years before moving to Hardwick in 1777 where he died in 1784. In 1777 Samuel Dennis deeded mills and land to Seth Woodward of Taunton. In 1778 he deeded 230 acres to Ebenezer Hammond later known as the Samuel Richardson place, and about the same time 67 acres to Seth Blanchard of Hardwick who built his home on the south side of Swift River and at his death it was purchased by Silas Flagg in 1814.



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In 1766 Joel Mathews, millright, sold 29 acres to Solomon Mathews on the south side of Swift River. In 1766 Thomas Frink of Rutland deeded 230 acres to Jacob Wheeler, on Walnut Hill in the south west corner of the town, and in 1784, Jacob Wheeler deeded 191 acres of this tract to Nathaniel Rawson, who deeded it, the following year to Capt. Seth Williams. In 1787 Elkanah Hodskins deeded 91 acres with buildings to Capt. Seth Williams, located at the junction of the Dugway and Camel's Hump roads. In 1779 Abner Wilson deeded 72 acres to Ichabod Randall of Worcester who in 1789 deeded it, with buildings, to Jarius Williams of North Easton who married Hannah Morse daughter of Samuel Morse a nearby neighbor, and they became the ancestors of the many Williams families in Barre and Petersham.

In 1803 Paul Mandell sold 145 acres to John Stone and his three sons, Paul Mandell Stone, Moses Stone, and James Stone, this being the northerly part of "Green's tract" or "Greenwich Gore" so called, on the line bounding the towns of Greenwich and Petersham, sometimes called "Pifersshare".

In 1750 Daniel Spooner deeded 60 acres to Jacob Amsden and in 1784 Luther Seaver deeded 20 acres to Barzaleel Amsden, located between the Seth Williams tract and the Elijah Hildreth tract, and west of the Peckham tract to the Monson Turnpike.

In the valley of Swift River on its northern bank, we find that William Lawton of Rehoboth acquired 280 acres of land in the years between 1770 and 1780. Jeremiah Gallond and his wife Sarah were settled in 1789 on the southern edge of Joseph Wilson's property; and before 1800, the Gallond property had become divided among the three sons, John, Joseph and Jeremiah Gallond. Samuel Chamberlain acquired most of the William Lawton tract and enough from other sources to total about 400 acres. The earliest Samuel Chamberlain on record had settled on the property in the east part of the town relinquished by Nehemiah Coy when he went to a "place called Union" in 1749, so the Samuel Chamberlain on the banks of Swift River was probably Samuel Chamberlain, Jr., who married Barbara Babcock of New Braintree, Dec. 1790. In 1829 Samuel Chamberlain deeded nearly, 100 acres to his son Joel and ten years later the same

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tract is deeded to Jesse Rogers who married Joel's sister Eliza Chamberlain Feb. 24th 1829. Samuel Chamberlain sold another tract to his grandson Thomas Jefferson Chamberlain and another to his son Caleb Chamberlain.

Jesse Rogers built a hat-pressing establishment on the Swift River for pressing palm leaf hats, also he was influential in getting the road built to the Barre line on the New Barre road. He built the two houses west of the Butler bridge, and after a few years, sold the property to Daniel Maynard, and moved to Barre where he continued the palm leaf business under the firm name of Desper and Rogers. The mill built by Rogers was later used to manufacture wooden powder kegs by Daniel Maynard, Thomas Aldrich and, about 1863, by Elisha Webb. The mill above the bridge in Nichewaug was owned in turn by David Parlin, 1879; John Carter, 1878; David C. Paige; Benjamin Hicks, 1859; Ezekiel Pierce, 1849; Avery Clapp, 1845; Andrew Brown.

Joseph Wilson, probably the earliest white settler to spend a winter in town, located on the southern brow of Nichewaug Hill. The vital records of Lancaster contain the item: "Joseph Wilson and Rebecca Phelps married in Lancaster Sept. 1726." He drew lot No. 66 in Nichewaug, Oct. 1733 and was reported in 1750 as still living on that lot. His sons, David, Deliverance and Joseph succeeded him in ownership until about 1775 when it came into possession of Jesse Dimick of Guilford, Vt., followed, 1798, by Levi Houghton, and in 1837 it was owned by David C. Paige from Hardwick.

William Negus, a soldier in Capt. Lovewell's army but not named as a proprietor of Nichewaug, settled on the north end of Nichewaug hill about 1750 after ten years ownership of Lot No. 40 drawn by Reuben Farnsworth, and later owned, by Jonas Carruth in the south east section of the plantation bordering on Barre line. Wm. Negus' sons, Joel, Joseph and John, succeeded him in ownership until 1819 when Joel Stearns took the property for about twenty-five years. In 1847, Thomas Howe, son of Arethusa (Negus) and Jonas Howe, purchased the Wm. Negus property and it is now known as the Gay Farm. (Elizabeth (Howe) Gay and Charles M. Gay were for many



Thomas Howe at Gay Farm on Nichewaug Hill, home of the Negus and Howe families for about 200 years.  
Home of Elizabeth (Howe) Gay and her husband, Charles M. Gay.  
Now occupied by Corinne (Howe) Babbitt and her husband, Lewis H. Babbitt.



## EARLY SETTLERS

years the hospitable owners. A descendant of the Negus and Howe families lives on the farm at the present time.)

About 1749 John Stowell of Worcester bought the tract of land between that of William Negus and the one assigned Rev. Aaron Whitney, later deeded to his sons as they became of age, etc. In 1787 Lemuel was allotted his share succeeded by two generations, Dexter Stowell in 1814, and Ansel about 1842. In 1778, Joab Stowell was assigned the homestead of his father, and when his daughter Lydia married Abiatha Blanchard in 1813 they settled nearby, on the Luke Lincoln (later Chas. F. Choate) property. The son Asahel settled at the extreme northwest corner, next to Aaron Whitney about 1800, succeeded by his son Daniel about 1830. Abel Stowell lived on the northeast corner of the ancestral estate bounded east by Daniel Spooner, about 1790, succeeded by his son Rufus, while his daughter Clarissa who married Simon Dudley settled near Sacketts Harbor in 1815. John Stowell's sons, Henry, Peter and John Jr. settled in Shutesbury before 1825.

Between the Stowell tract on the west, Daniel Spooner on the north and the Jonathan Prescott tract on the east and south, lay the tract belonging to Henry Chase who came from Sutton as early as 1750; he was succeeded in ownership by his sons Elisha and Henry, with the homestead probably the same as owned by the late John Anderson. In 1800 Henry Chase sold the tract on Swift River including the James Burns property on the south and Sacketts Harbor on the north to a relative in Sutton by the name of Francis Dudley who is said to have brought \$1500 in silver to pay for his place, turning it from his saddle bags into a half bushel measure. His son Joseph stayed on the home place taking care of the old folks; Samuel lived near the south end of Loring Hill and was succeeded by his son Marshall; Simon settled at Sacketts Harbor.

On lot No. 14, the center of the town, four men by the name of Peckham settled between 1750 and 1780. William built the house on the west side of the common now belonging to Mrs. William Simes, later selling it to Dr. Richard P. Bridge; Josiah Peckham owned the Winslow Tavern for a while then built the Willson house which stood

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on the west side of Main St. later moved to the corner. John Peckham located at the corner of Main and Oliver Street for a few years then bought land extensively in the west part of the town, on or near Thousand Acre Hill and near the Monson Turnpike. At the corner of South Main and Spring Streets Samuel Peckham took the bankrupt property of Kenelm Winslow and kept a public house for several years. The town meetings were held there while the church was being built 1785-1795 and there was an assembly room upstairs paneled on all four sides.

Of the fifteen original signers of the church book in 1738, five soon left town to take up their residence elsewhere.

John Oaks removed to Sunderland in 1748.

Reuben Farnsworth to Rutland in 1747.

Thomas Adams to Charlestown, N. H. 1754.

Nathaniel Stevens to Warwick 1761.

Isaiah Glazier probably never lived here as he was a resident of Hardwick in 1742.

James Clemence owned several acres west of Swift River, south of the Templeton road and probably lived north of the upper mills, on the place last occupied by Edmund Shaw, as Samuel Clemence deeded 13 acres to Joseph Brown, in 1805. A son Thomas born in 1748 lived in the north west section of the town west of the Tom Swamp causeway and gave the land for the north west cemetery. Mr. Willson refers to James Clemence as living in the place, afterwards owned and occupied by John Chandler Esq.

Jonas Farnsworth lived on lot No. 14, which was the meeting house lot and kept a public house at the corner of Nichewaug Lane for twenty years. He came from Groton and returned there in 1757, Silas Walker, a blacksmith, evidently lived near the north end of the "great way", as he deeded lot No. 2 to Nathaniel Sanderson in 1741 and Lot No. 26 to David Sanderson, on the west side of road opposite Lot No. 2.

George Robbins probably lived in the east part of the town afterwards settled by Ezekiel Bouker, northeast of Chimney Hill. Zedekiah Stone came from Framingham, and owned a large tract of

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land west of the North Street, north of Sunset Lane, it included the 19 acres deeded to his son David, 1753 now owned by Catesby Jones.

Samuel Willson owned lot No. 16 with its southern boundary on Oliver Street, eastern boundary on Daniel Spooner, and northern boundary on Jacob Wheeler, innkeeper, who built the house opposite Sunset Lane near the site of Mrs. Clarence Fiske's house. Joseph Wilson, probably the earliest white settler in town, lived on the south side of Nichewaug Hill, records indicate their son Abner was born there in October 1732 a year before the house lots were drawn.

Rev. Aaron Whitney was settled on lot No. 15 allotted to the minister. He was a farmer as well as a minister and during the forty years of his service as preacher, the acreage increased to include the land bounded by Spring Street on the north, the two Hardwick roads east and west of the mansion built by his successor, Solomon Reed in 1788. The home of Aaron Whitney was not taken down until about 1830.

Nathaniel Wilder lived in the extreme eastern portion of the town bordering on Barre line; more recently known as the Patrick Carbery farm, and his son Jerathmeel, born in 1721 was later settled on the adjoining farm on the north, last owned by Augustus Skinner, while John Wilder who was probably a nephew of Nathaniel, made his settlement on Narrow Lane, and married Prudence a daughter of Nathaniel. Aaron Wilder bought several lots but probably lived in the eastern section of the town, later occupied by the Bouker family.

Isaac Ward, son of Obadiah Ward of Worcester was chosen first deacon of the church in Nichewaug and removed to Amherst, thence to Leverett where he died 1777. He may have lived upon the 6 acres he deeded to William Negus in 1776. Nathaniel Stevens was reported to be living on Lot No. 68 in 1750, described as being one mile and 60 rods from the south meeting house lot; bounds west on land left for a highway. He removed with his family to Warwick in 1761. Apparently during his short residence in town, he was located upon the tract taken over by the John Stowell family.

On January 11th 1770 Prudence Lincoln, married William Burt, and about the same time, Enos Lincoln married Sarah Burt. These

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two couples came from Norton and Taunton before 1772 and settled about a mile northwest of the village on the lower Athol road, at the south end of Lincoln meadow. The children of Enos Lincoln who settled in town were Lucinda who married Oliver Clapp; Sarah or Sally who married Samuel Clapp, and lived near the south end of the Birch Drive; Alanson, married Laura Graves of Athol and built a house on the north side of the road opposite his father; Lydia married William Peirce, and lived at the north end of the Lincoln Meadow, later called Tom Swamp; Susanna married Timothy Sprague and lived at the Alvin Tufts place.

Mr. and Mrs. William Burt probably settled near these other families, and their son, who became famous as the inventor of the "typographer", William Austin Burt, was born June 13th, 1792. About 1800 the family moved to Freehold, New York. Later these Lincoln homesteads were owned by Charles Pike, who about 1870 sold them to Martin White.

Jacob Amsden (4) Abraham (3) Isaac (2) Isaac (1) bought land in 1780 that was later included in the town of Dana as well as the lands of his son Barzaleel Amsden, south of the Seth Williams tract. Ephraim Amsden ( (4) (John)3), Isaac (2) Isaac (1) bought land in Petersham in 1759 bordering on the Dana line and Isaac Hildreth. His son Ephraim (5) born in Leicester in 1749 married Betsey Woodward in 1786 and deeded the property to his son David Amsden 1815, from whom it descended to his son Oren, and now in possession of Oren's grandchildren, Laura D. Amsden and Raymond H. Amsden.

Persis Amsden daughter of Ephraim, married Benjamin Bosworth in 1779 and lived at the Hodges place where Benjamin was buried in the tomb nearby, and their son William continued to live on that place until it was purchased by Bradford Hodges in 1840. Lucinda Amsden married Nelson Bosworth and lived on the place now owned by Raymond Amsden. George Bosworth lived on the present Fred Wheeler place and was succeeded by his son Danforth Bosworth.

In response to the wish expressed by members of the David How line of Sudbury whose "Wayside Inn" was made famous by H. W.



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Longfellow, that knowledge of other lines<sup>"</sup> of that Marlboro How family settling elsewhere, would be acceptable, we find an article in "The Christian Leader, July 29, 1939" by Carrie Howe Delles of Minnesota, interesting, as she was a descendant of Asa How who settled on the Creek road, (now known as the McCormack place), in the east part of this town. The History of Framingham states that Daniel, John, and Abraham were three unrelated heads of How families in America, who settled in Sudbury and Marlboro. Asa How, (5) (John (4) John (3) John (2) John (1) ) married Mary Stow great-grand daughter of Abraham who arrived in Marlboro 1660, but unrelated to John How. About 1750, Asa and Mary with their possessions moved to Petersham. From Benjamin, their fourth son born April 18th 1759, the line has been continued to Corinne Howe Babbitt of the 10th generation. On the farm adjoining Asa on the west, there settled Sylvanus, a descendant of Daniel of Marlboro.

John (1) John (2) John (3) John (4) Asa (5) Benjamin (6) Jonas (7) Jonas Holland (8) James Benjamin (9) Corinne (10).

# CELLAR HOLES

## SITES OF DWELLING HOUSES AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS THAT HAVE BEEN BURNED, TAKEN DOWN OR REMOVED

Altho' the following poem was written by Della Hicks at the time the large dwelling-house of Elisha Webb was burned in March 1895, it applies to the sentiments encircling these other vanished homes.

### "FOND MEMORIES"

*by Della Hicks*

Those walls lie now in ashes,  
The ruins of a home;  
A cruel foe there entered  
And claimed it for its own.

But though he won the victory  
Though none could thwart his will;  
He could not take the memories;  
They linger round it still.  
As we gaze upon the ruins,  
Of the walls now laid so low,  
What scenes rise up before us,  
And cause our tears to flow?

No more those rooms will echo  
Young voices raised in song;  
No more those halls will welcome  
The gay and happy throng.

There we gathered in the evening,  
Sang the old songs o'er and o'er;  
Played the games we knew from childhood  
Laughed till we could laugh no more.

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Guessed the riddle, paid the forfeit.  
Round and round we'd spin the plate  
There we sang the fare well chorus  
When the hour was getting late.

Yes we'll cherish all those pleasures  
'Mid life's disastrous hours;  
And in the garden of our hearts  
Will bloom fair memories' flowers.

1. The shop of John Haskins was removed from the corner of North Main Street and East Street to the rear of the present town house in 1840 where it was used by Phineas Brooks as a shoe shop, and by Adin Tolman for the palm leaf splitting business and, after 1890, by James H. Gafney as a residence and meat market. It was removed by the town in 1925 as a fire hazard.

2. William Clark's Blacksmith Shop that stood on the site of the present telephone exchange was removed to the south side of East Street between the residences of James H. Smith and James H. Gafney. It was used as a blacksmith shop by Zina Blackmer, and by Marcellus Peckham as a tin shop until it was burned March 21st, 1884.

3. The residence of John G. Mudge stood on the site of the Historical Building. Built by Jones Foster before 1863, owned by Alice Healy 1868, and John G. Mudge until it was burned on Aug. 27th, 1892.

4. Close to the above residence stood the Baptist Church, built by the Universalist Society in 1835, purchased by the Baptist Society in 1849, and burned Aug. 27, 1892.

5. North of the Baptist Church stood the house built in 1838, occupied by Harrison Williams in 1842, and by George Foster in 1875; burned Aug. 27, 1892.

6. The Christopher Williams' Store built about 1838, then owned by John L. Gallond, J. G. Parmeter, George Tolman and

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George Marsh, burned Aug. 27, 1892.

7. The house directly north of the burned district was built by Silas Foster, later owned by his son Jones Foster and Herbert Fiske, burned Jan. 2nd. 1930.

8. Between the house of Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Smart and the Mansion of James W. Brooks was built the Methodist Chapel in 1846. It was moved to a site in front of the present Library, and used as a store and post office by Wetherell and Mudge. About 1878 it was moved to a site directly opposite the one upon which it was built where it was used as a Grange Hall and Parish Hall until 1899 when Mr. J. W. Brooks moved it to its present site as the kitchen wing of the Nichewaug Hotel.

9. Aaron Brooks, Jr., built the Brooks' Mansion in 1832 and it was sold by his widow in 1865 to Henry Miner; purchased by James W. Brooks, son of Aaron Brooks, Jr., in 1869. It continued as his residence and that of his sister, Miss Martha Brooks, during their lives. In 1935 the building was razed.

10. The house built by Jacob Wheeler as early as 1760 stood a few rods east of the present house owned by J. Clayton Bates. It was later occupied by the son Nathan Wheeler, and was the home of Dr. John Flint at the time of his death during the epidemic of spotted fever, Feb. 27th, 1810. It was later owned by Peter Chamberlain and his son-in-law, Lyman Robinson, and taken down by James W. Brooks about 1880.

11. The John Burrage house that stood on the site of the Catholic Church was once owned by Ivory Holland and last occupied by Leason Ward. The small building that stood on the site of the Catholic Garage, was once the store of J. and N. Chandler that stood at the corner of North Main Street and the Templeton Road, later used as a part of Homer Marsh's bungalow. The Burrage house was removed in 1912 to make room for the Catholic Church.

12. On the site of the house now owned by Mrs. Adam Ganson stood the house of Frank Stone, that was burned in May 1899; on the same site also had stood the house of John Chandler, Jr., it was burned in the 1830's.

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13. The historic house of the Willard family that stood between the well and the Main Street was probably in existence about one hundred and fifty years, when taken down in 1893 by Edwin C. Dexter and Fred Gooding, at which time their fieldstone house was built.

14. On the east side of the road, opposite the Waldo house, stood Dean's Tavern before 1790, resembling the Joseph Farrar house that stood on the site of Geo. Wilder's house. In 1860 Russell Dudley built his house where the Dean Tavern had stood, later to be moved by C. S. Waldo several rods further south.

15. A few rods south of the present house of George Wheeler stood the house of Jonathan Grout, 1785. He was prominent in town, county, state, and federal affairs.

16. One of the first houses built in town, that of Nathaniel Sanderson, later owned by Rev. Joseph Farrar, stood on the site of George Wilder's house.

17. At the end of Petersham Street, also called the "Great Way", at the top of Mann Hill stood the Brook's place owned in 1821 by Capt. Joel Brooks and previous to that by Joe Connor, who deeded the place to Joel Brooks in 1803. Later it was owned by Wm. Mann and at the time it was burned in 1916 it was owned by Wm. Simes.

18. A half mile northeast from the top of Mann Hill stood the Town Farm, formerly the residence of Major John Willson, and where previously lived Reuben Doane.

19. Several rods northeast of the Town Farm, stood the Gilman Wyman place, formerly known as the Stapleton place and owned by Emma Marsh, when it was burned in 1914.

20. In the valley beyond the Wyman or Stapleton place, stood the John Dunn place.

21. On a discontinued road from the Dunn place to the Templeton Road near the Pople Camp Bridge was once the residence of Asa Morse.

22. On another discontinued road running south from the Town Farm and about half way between it and the Templeton Road, stood

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the house last occupied by Michael Broderick formerly owned by Jacob Powers, Wm. Merry, and Jane White.

23. Near the foot of Mann Hill on the east side of the road was the tannery house last occupied by the family of Thomas Russell and taken down about 1910. In 1825, John Sanderson sold it to Asa Clark who sold it to Wm. Goddard about 1835.

24. Near the home of Mrs. Richard T. Fisher stood a house once occupied in 1830 by James Jackson, Sr., and family.

25. A few rods north of Mrs. Fisher's residence stood the brick school house called "Bennett Hill School," No. 3, razed in 1868 soon after the alteration of the Athol Road.

26. On the north end of Bennett Hill the French place was taken down in 1936. It was one of the early taverns of the town, occupied by three generations of the Ward family, built in 1764 by Captain Elisha Ward younger brother of Major General Artemas Ward of Shrewsbury, and later occupied by Samuel Switzer. When purchased by Almond French in 1846, there were long logs, west of the house, hollowed out as feeding places for cattle and horses.

27. The first house built by Ensign Mann was located at the junction of the road over Bennett Hill and the new Athol Road a few rods east of the house now owned by Charlotte Stone.

28. Five generations of Davenports owned the house on the Doe Valley Road, near the Athol line. It was burned December 19, 1932, Park Holland bought it about 1786, and in 1774 it was owned by Joshua Willard.

29. On the road leading west near Julia Smith's stood the Peter Chamberlain place, formerly owned by Samuel Mann, Caleb Sprague and Abel Davenport. It was destroyed by fire, January, 1915.

30. Opposite George Wilder's house stood a small cottage built by Curtis Sanderson in 1837. Through generosity of the Misses C. L. and E. H. Flint and Mrs. Margaret Higginson, it was removed and is now used as the Petersham Exchange building.

31. On the highest point of land in town opposite the house of George A. Wheeler stood a three story mansion built by Dr. John Trumbull in 1785. It was last occupied by Olney Scott. It was

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taken down by John M. Holman about 1880.

32. The house built by Capt. Asa Pond on the west side of the Athol Road several rods beyond the "Deer Farm" was moved by C. S. Waldo to a site near the former Scott Place.

33. On Ward Hill once stood the house of Daniel S. Ward, it was occupied in 1869 by Charles Smith; last occupied by Whitfield Grimes, and burned about 1914.

34. At the end of Ward Hill Road, leading northwest from the Woolsey residence, was the "Littlefield Farm" which was occupied before 1790 by Ebenezer Bragg, owned by Deacon William Blodgett in 1851, and taken down by J. W. Baldwin.

35. When Seth Hapgood built his house at the corner of Sunset Lane in 1842, he moved the Daniel Bigelow house from that corner to the north side of that lot and it was last occupied by Mrs. R. T. Riggs.

36. Seth Hapgood also moved the law office of Lewis Bigelow a few rods west of the corner to the present site of Martin Russell's house. It was later occupied by J. W. Martin and last by Susan Ballou.

37. Seth Hapgood also moved the house on the south corner of Sunset Lane and Main Street, last occupied by Israel Houghton, to the south corner of that lot where it became the residence of Mrs. Elizabeth Fobes, at present owned by Miss Hopkinson.

38—43. Within the range of the burnt district, April 15th, 1847, came the following buildings: a tailor's shop, two large tavern houses with their stables and outbuildings, a dwelling house, button factory, large store and a building occupied by shops, offices, etc. One tavern was rebuilt in 1850 which was called the Nichewaug Inn and was burned December 9th, 1897.

44. The second church building was located where the present flag-staff is, it faced the south, was built in the 1790's, and in 1842 was moved to the site of the present brick building to take the place of the first school-house that had been moved to the foot of the East Street hill, and converted into a dwelling. The second church and town house beside it were destroyed by fire February 5th, 1845.

45. The first church, erected in 1737, stood a few feet west of

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the north steps in the cemetery west wall, and was taken down about 1800.

46. The first district No. 1 school-house, a square wooden building, stood on the site of the present brick building, and was removed to the foot of the East Street hill.

47. East of Sackett's Harbor and at the end of the road running south from Brown's bridge, is the site of the Simon Dudley homestead where Moses Marsh had built the house and deeded it to Simon Dudley in 1811. It was taken down in 1900.

48. On the north side of East Street beyond George Blair's house, stood two houses now gone. One was near the driveway east of Blair's house, built by Aaron Brooks and deeded to William Moore in 1842.

49. The other, a few rods east of the Moore house was owned by Richard Comerford, and was burned in the 1870's. In 1890 Andrew Peter Johnson bought the land of both these places and built his own house from the material in the Moore place.

50. Next to the new cemetery on East Street is the spot where Ruggles Spooner built his house probably soon after his father Daniel Spooner deeded to him sixty acres of land in 1759. Ruggles Spooner deeded the place to Benj. Green, and in 1816 it was purchased by Robert Goddard, Junior, who deeded it to David Johnson. Then it came into possession of James W. Brooks. In 1932 it was taken down and rebuilt for Mr. and Mrs. Robert Douthit on the south side of West Street.

51. The old house that stood northwest of Brown's Pond was last occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Shaw and was formerly owned by Sylvanus Gates in 1840, and by Oliver C. Gates in 1810. It was demolished in 1930.

52. North of Chauncey Hapgood's wheelwright shop was a small cottage, quite dilapidated as early as 1840, and tradition says it once belonged to Peter Gore. Tradition also relates that Peter Gore last lived in a hut, just west of Brown's Pond.

53. The house occupied by Stephen Howe was replaced by the one built by Joseph Rickey.



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54. The famed spring on the Creek Road was the site of the Joseph Stevens place as early as 1752.

55. The place next north on the Creek Road (house lot No.44 drawn by Moses Hazzen) was deeded to Edward Baker of Marlboro in 1749 who sold it to Cyprian Baker in 1816. He willed it to his son, Francis Baker, in 1848 and it was taken over by his son Artemas Baker in 1852. It was purchased by Patrick Glasheen in 1863 and burned while owned by Robert Gale on October 24th, 1927.

56. The next place north on the Creek Road was owned by Asa Howe of Marlboro who was in town as early as 1752, later owned by Dolly How Wilcox, then by Nathan Hammond, and in the 1870's it was purchased by Dennis McCormack. It was burned when struck by lightning in August 1912.

57. The last place in Petersham on the east side of the Creek Road was last occupied by William Harty and formerly by Joseph Brown.

58. On a road leaving the Creek Road a few rods south of the Steven's Spring leading westerly and terminating at a cellar hole, a house was burned in 1862 while owned by a McCarty family. It was owned by Daniel Miles as early as 1742, Daniel Miles, Junior, 1771, Joseph Miles 1815, and later by John Gates.

59. Not far east of Walter Bassett's is the cellar hole of the old house that may have been built by Fortunatas Eager in 1810, and later owned by Samuel Ainsworth in 1833. Samuel Ainsworth deeded it to Prescott Holland who deeded it to Israel Houghton in 1836. Augustus Skinner owned it in the 1890's. It was burned in a forest fire.

60. About half a mile north of the Barre-Petersham town line is the cellar hole where once stood the house of Jonas Brown, Junior, built by Samuel Pike about 1810. Ira Prouty's family once lived there and it was burned during the ownership of Mr. Drake.

61. West of the William Wade place a house was burned which had been built by either Silas Bowker or Enoch Hammond.

62. On the west corner of Narrow Lane and the Hubbardston Road is the site of the Ira Randall house last occupied by Michael

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Keaveney.

63. A half mile from the Hubbardston Road on Narrow Lane, are the ruins of the original Wilder place, probably one of the first to be settled in town. After being owned by several generations of Wilders it was owned successively by Silas Wheeler, Josiah Cushman; John Sidorchuck. Burned in March, 1937.

64. Near the Barre line on the north side of Hawes Hill once stood the home of Patrick Carbery. It was deeded to him by his father, Thomas Carbery, owned in 1855 by Phiny Babbett, and probably built by Nathaniel Wilder.

65. Leslie Bassett's house is on or near the site of Reed's Tavern which was burned about 1840. It was at Reed's Tavern that Doctor Flint stopped when he was stricken with spotted fever on his way home from visiting a patient in Barre.

66. On the Hubbardston Road, a few rods east of the Oliver Loring place, once stood the house of Jotham Bouker as early as 1791. It was last occupied by the family of Hiram Marsh.

67. Opposite the Creek Road and on the south side of Moccasin Brook is the cellar hole marking the residence of Seth Hapgood who was in town as early as 1759. The last occupant was his son Eber, who was born in 1770 and received the deed to the place in 1794. The house fell into decay early in this century.

68. A few rods from the Quaker Road north of the Moulton place is a cellar hole where once stood the home of Simeon Houghton and later his son Zarah and until 1833, the home of his grandson Israel.

69. Also, on the Quaker Road and north of Moccasin Brook was the homestead of Thomas Houghton.

70. Half way between the Quaker house and the bridge over Swift River are two cellar holes. The north one was where Francis Dudley of Sutton built his house in 1800 and the south one, about fifty feet from it, where his son Joseph Dudley built about 1830.

71. The place built by Joseph Dudley was last occupied by James Burnes who bought it about 1875.

72. On the discontinued Road from the Quaker Road to the

## CELLAR HOLES

east side of Connor's Mill Pond are the remains of the Reuben Stone place 1768, Jesse Stone 1801, and Woodman Wheeler.

73. Two cellar holes near the Mill Pond on Rutland Brook were probably homes of the first mill owners there, Jonathan Prescott or the Houghtons. Tradition indicates that the family of Robert Moon once lived there.

74. Near the Mill Pond on Rutland Brook, was the home of one of the owners of the saw mills.

75. On the old stage road over Loring Hill the last house in Petersham was that of William Willard Loring on the south side of the road.

76. A few rods west of the above and on the north side of the road was the home of Abel Loring, later owned by Porter Cleveland.

77. A quarter mile west of the Porter Cleveland home was the home of David Clark, later occupied by his son Hardin Clark, John Chamberlin, and last by William Cowen.

78. Half-way between the Cowen place and the Dudley or Butterworth place stood the school-house of District No. 12.

79. Between the Butterworth place and the Main Barre Road stood the Jonas Carruth place last occupied by the Martin Hillery family.

80. Near the east side of the mill pond was a house owned by Alfred Carruth, and occupied by the Rathbone family in the 1860's.

81. On the Barre Road, west of the mill pond was the home of Lucius Spooner, manufacturer of hay forks.

82. On the south side of the old stage road near the bridge was the home of Micajah Reed in 1816, previously occupied by Frederick Brown.

83. Directly west of the Micajah Reed place at the fork in the stage road was the home of Peter Eames 1790, owned by Frederick Brown before 1790, Josiah Newton 1815, and last occupied by Walter Williams.

84. On the north side of the old stage road and between the houses of Peter Eames and Micajah Reed was the house built by Avery Williams in 1825.

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85. Half-way between the Barre Road and the Hardwick Road stood the splendid homestead of Thomas Curtis. Upon the same site now stands the Robert Larson homestead.

86. On the west side of the Barre Road a few rods north of the old watering trough is an unidentified cellar hole possibly where stood the dwelling of Henry Chase.

87. On the road now discontinued, from the Barre Road near Kenneth Marsh's house to the residence of John B. Paine, was the home of David Allen, earlier occupied by George Robbins.

88. Not many rods east of Charles E. Buell's stood the house built by Shearjashub Spooner, later owned by Simon Whitney, and Eugene Tolman, known as Bobolink Farm, burned 1903.

89. On the site of the house now owned by Mrs. James Smith once stood the house of Isaac Brock, which was burned in 1865.

90. Blacksmith and tin shop, burned 1884.

91. J. H. Gafney house.

92. Two rods south and four rods west of the Solomon Reed house stood the mansion of Aaron Whitney, built in 1740.

93. A few rods northwest of Louis Nelson's house stood the house of Asahel Stowell built in 1798 and transferred to his son Daniel Stowell in 1837. It was burned in 1865.

94. The Cheese Factory was built by a corporation in 1862 and used as such until 1874. It was purchased by Zina Blackmer in 1883 and used as a roller skating rink for two years. It was moved on rolls in 1885 to the rear of the Unitarian Church and used for a blacksmith shop, Cook's cash grocery store, and two comfortable tenements. It was removed by William Simes about 1925 to its present location as Broderick's Store.

95. In the ten acre lot on the south side of the road west of Bernard LePoer's are two cellar holes marking the sites of early Stowell homesteads, one in the northwest corner.

96. The homestead of John Stowell was in the northwest corner of the ten acre lot.

97. At the end of a lane or discontinued road leading west from the Hardwick road near the house of the late John Tucker, was once

## CELLAR HOLES

the homestead belonging to Joseph Negus, and after his death his son, Paul Negus, occupied it 1799.

98. A few rods west of the homestead of Joseph Negus lived the family of Seth Savage in 1833. It was part of the Dickinson farm.

99. At the corner of the Hardwick road and the drive to the Gay Farm, stood the school-house for District No. 6. It was burned in 1865 and never rebuilt.

100. A few feet north of the residence of the late John Tucker and surrounded by a clump of lilac bushes, stood the house of Joab Stowell.

101. The newly built cottage of Channing Harris stands on the site of the home of John Negus, later occupied by Levi Blodgett, and in 1837 owned by Daniel Hastings. It was purchased by William H. Pierce about 1875 and a few years later owned by Albert Amsden. It was burned about 1890.

102. Half-way between the Hardwick Road and the Carruth Road and northeast of the John Carter place was located the home of Luke Lincoln during the Revolutionary War.

103. At the top of the hill two miles south of the village is a group of several cellar holes. Jesse Dimick who married Molla Stowell in 1766 built his house near the "Ledge".

104. When Hannah Dimick married Levi Houghton in 1798 they built a large two story farm house a few rods south of the Dimick homestead, which was later occupied by their daughter Miranda who married David C. Paige in 1837. This house was burned April 13th, 1884 and was replaced by John A. Carter with his "White Rock Farm". These buildings were burned about 1912 while occupied by Thomas Foster who replaced them with the ones now standing.

105. At the foot of Nichewaug Hill stood the Lot Moore place taken down by Edna Campbell about 1900. It was owned by the Gallond family many years and was probably built by Jeremiah Gallond in 1789.

106. A quarter of a mile from the Glen Road, on the west side of the Carruth Road, stood the Carruth House owned by Jonas Carruth, also owned by Samuel Hinds, William A. Smith, Enoch Bab-

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

cock and Warren Bigelow. It was taken down and rebuilt on the south side of Oliver Street by Daniel Bigelow about 1900.

107. On the south side of the Glen Road east of the bridge stood the home of William Butler, built by Thomas Aldrich, and deeded to William Butler in 1865.

108. Near the north side of Ross Hill once stood the house owned in 1855 by Charles Smith, previously owned by Gamaliel Luce, and last occupied by Seth Carter. It was, perhaps, occupied by John Whittiker in 1780.

109. The house now owned by Mary McEvoy, is on the site of the one burned in 1868, belonging then to Zuri and Paul Williams and previously occupied by Amos Briggs.

110. Close to the Barre, Dana line and the last house in Petersham was the Samuel Hopkins place, last owned by Charles Stone. It was burned.

111. Several rods east of the corner of the East Hardwick Road and the Glen Valley Road once stood the house of Elisha Webb, built by Jesse Rogers. It was deeded to Elisha Webb in 1863 and burned in March 1895.

112. Near the cemetery in Nichewaug Village stood the house built by Thomas J. Chamberlin and later occupied by John Robbins, more recently by John A. Carter, and burned in 1935.

113. On the corner south of Bert Smith's house stood the David Parlin house and store containing the Nichewaug post office for a few years. It was owned by John L. Gallond in 1835.

114. On the west side of the Dana Road near the bridge stood the house built by Hosea Carter and deeded by him to Asa Snow in 1840. It was occupied by Charles Snow from 1895 to 1910, and taken down by the Metropolitan Water Company in 1936.

115. On the east side of the road at the corner of the Dana and Hardwick Roads stood the house built by Nathaniel McCarty, occupied by Samuel Cook, later Nathaniel Cook, and in the early 1870's by Samuel J. Frost. It was later owned by Walter Coolidge and burned in 1901.

116. On the east side of the Hardwick Road about half-way be-



Leander T. Hathaway House, built 1833 by David Rufus Grosvenor.  
Destroyed by fire August 7, 1898.



Junction of the Barre and Hardwick Roads. July 1, 1936.





## CELLAR HOLES

tween the MacClaurin place and the junction of the Dana Hardwick Roads stood the Artemas Loring place until it fell to decay about 1915. Artemas Loring bought it in 1819 from Nahum Bryant who purchased it from Roswell Parmenter, who bought it from John Parmenter in 1815. It was part of the Edward Clark farm in 1809.

117. On the road east of Clarence Amidon's there stood a house that was moved to East Street in 1865 to replace the one burned that belonged to Isaac Brock.

118. Nearly opposite the Dugway road on the east side of the Hardwick Road was built the house of Joel Goddard, burned one Sunday in 1838 while the family was at church. It was rebuilt on the same site and occupied by the son Ashbel Goddard and grandson, William P. Goddard, Hiram Smith, Charles Coolidge. It was burned in April 1924.

119. Near the foot of the long hill on the Dugway Road, was the house built by Samuel Chamberlin and about 1830 occupied by the family of Jonathan Towne, until it was burned January 7th, 1928.

120. A few rods north of the Jonathan Towne place was the former home of Samuel Chamberlain.

121. The house now occupied by Frank Hatheway, was built upon the site of one destroyed by fire in August 1898. It had been owned and occupied by Leander Hatheway, and Robert Cutler; built by Moses Grosvenor 1833.

122. On the north side of the new road of 1936, a few rods west of the four corners between the school-house and Frank Hatheway's is a cellar hole, thus far unidentified.

123. On the west side of Lewis Street opposite Spring Street was the house built by Martin Rice, about 1800, and occupied by the family of Ellis Cook when it was destroyed by fire caused by lightning in August 1863.

124. On the east side of Palmer Lord's driveway stood the house built by Humphrey Farrar, later occupied 1875-1895 by Dr. Luther O. Martin. It was burned about 1900.

125. On the north side of the road at the foot of Tower Hill, stood the house built by Amos Stone before 1790 and later occupied

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

by the family of Oren Tower. It was burned in the early '90s.

126. A half mile from the Birch Drive, on the road to the Harvard Lookout Tower, there is a cellar hole where once was a house owned by Caleb Willis, Jr.

127. A half mile south of the west cemetery and on the west side of the Camel's Hump Road, stood the house owned and occupied by Henry and Giles Shattuck, and later by Lewis Peckham.

128. On the Birch Drive was the home of Moses Bliss and later his son Calvin Bliss, and about 1900 owned by Levi Ball. It stood about half-way between the lower Athol Road and the New Salem Road.

129. A few rods north of the place of Samuel Clapp was an older house, occupied in 1794 by Jonas Tower, where his son, Oren, was born. Probably this house was built by Alexander Calhoun as early 1760.

130. Near the south end of the Birch Drive, was located the homestead of Samuel Clapp, more recently owned by Mary Edwards and Ira Prouty.

131. A quarter of a mile west of the above mentioned Clapp place on a now discontinued road to the Monson Turnpike was the home of Silas Cross in 1793, Carver Wood in 1817, Calvin Peabody in 1822, Daniel Brahman and Jacob Whitney.

132. Near the north end of the Birch Drive and on its west side near an old elm tree, was the home and privately taught school of Moses and Unity Willson, later owned by the Gunn family.

133. On the Old Robinson Road south and parallel to the New Salem Road was the house of Rev. William Goddard who came from Westmoreland, Vermont, and a few rods northwest of it was the house of Daniel Robinson who married Rhoda Goddard in 1831.

134. Between the house of Harry Bates and the south end of the Birch Drive stood the west school-house, District No. 9.

135. A few rods west of Phillip's Lane and on the south side of the New Salem Road was the home last occupied by Flint Peckham.

136. Close beside the house of Clarence Russell stood the house of Silas Peckham, later occupied by Ashel Elliott. It was removed

## CELLAR HOLES

by Mrs. Georgiana Fisher to the north part of the town near her residence about 1915.

— 137. West of the house of Ernest Phillips was the home of Dr. Lindsey's father. It was also occupied by Ellis Peckham.

138. On the site of Laura Amsden's camp was the home of her ancestor, David Amsden, in 1880 owned by George Kendall.

139. The last house in Petersham on the north side of the North Dana Road was built by an Amsden.

140. On the west side of the Turnpike north of the Amsden Four Corners stood the home of John Burrage.

141. On a discontinued road leading northwest from the Amsden Four Corners was the home of Dr. Ebenezer Lindsey.

142. Near the eastern border of the Women's State Federation tract on the north side of the Millington Road stood the house of Tarrant Sibley as early as 1840.

143. A few rods west of the above Tarrant Sibley's homestead was that of Emory Sibley, removed about 1890 to the former site of the cheese factory, now the residence of Louis I. Nelson.

144. Near the boulder and tablet at the entrance of the Woman's State Federation tract, stood the house of Jonas Bancroft. It was built by Elam Russell and once owned by Nathan Dudley.

145. About half a mile beyond the home of Jonas Bancroft on a discontinued road to North Dana was the homestead of the Mason family.

146. A few rods west of the brook on the Millington Road, and east of the Sibley, (Esty, Wade) place, was the site of the home of Reuben Weeks. Elton Bassett was the last owner.

147. A few feet west of the above Reuben Weeks place stood the second west school-house.

148. A half mile west of the Monson Turnpike where it is crossed by Sputtermill Brook, stood the homestead of Joel Wheeler, as early as 1765.

149. Near the above Joel Wheeler homestead was that of Harrison Bancroft.

150. At Gale's Corner on the Monson Turnpike, the home of

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Jesse Gale was on the southwest corner of the New Salem Road.

151. The homestead on Nahum Gale was on the northeast corner of the Turnpike and New Salem Roads.

152. A mile north of Gale's corner on the Turnpike was the Jeremiah Dean place, last occupied by George Stiles. It was burned about March 30, 1917.

153. At the cross-roads of the Turnpike and South Athol Road, stood the house built by William Willard, occupied later by his son Holmes Willard and in 1880's by J. Collins Smith. Burned, Friday March 18, 1921.

154. Half-way from Burrage's Corner and the northwest school-house on the west side of the lower Athol Road stood the house of Aaron Johnson, later Silas Richardson, followed by his daughter, Charlotte Richardson.

155. On the opposite side of the road from the Aaron Johnson place was that of his father-in-law, John Crossett.

156. On the lower Athol Road a half mile north of the new 1936 Road, stood the house built by Jonathan Johnson in 1787. It was owned by his son Jonathan, and grandson, Rufus, and was taken down in 1897.

157. A few rods south of the Rufus Johnson place stood the northwest school-house, District No. 10.

158. A few rods south of the Tom Swamp Road, on the west side of the swamp stood the house of a Mr. Gilson, who was engaged in sawing the lumber for the new town house in 1850.

159. On the northwest corner of Tom Swamp was the sawmill belonging to Southworth Brothers in 1850. The mill buildings were removed in 1865.

160. At the west end of the Causeway on the north side of Tom Swamp Road stood the house of William Peirce, later occupied by Deacon Levi Babbett.

161. A half mile east of the Causeway on the north side of the Tom Swamp Road once stood the house of Charles Rogers, later the home of Eleazer McFarland.

162. At the southwest corner of "Meadow Water" stood the

## CELLAR HOLES

house last occupied by Ezra Pike.

163. Near the southeast corner of "Meadow Water", under the great elm trees stood the two Lincoln places. Enos Lincoln built the one on the south side of the road as early as 1770. Alanson Lincoln, son of Enos, built the house on the north side of the road as early as 1820, and in 1866 Simon Pike deeded these two properties to Martin White, the last occupant; deeded to Simon Pike by Joseph Morse.

164. Near the John Knapp house stood the house of his grandfather Joel Ballou.

165. About forty rods east of the John Knapp place on the north side of the lower Athol Road was a tiny cottage built by Lorin Foster, later occupied by George Allen and John Anderson's family.

166. At the junction of the lower Athol Road and the trail to Ward Hill, stood the homestead of Simon Pike before 1870.

Two quite important places when our town was first settled were included in the territory of Dana.

167. A half mile south of Clayton Ansley's on the Hardwick Road once stood the house of Samuel J. Richardson, formerly the "Elisha Hammond Farm" transferred to John Page in 1822.

168. The Captain Seth Williams place on the Camel's Hump Road near its junction of the Dugway Road, has been recently known as the Pluff homestead.

169. On the site of Robert Newbury's house, once stood the house of James Babcock taken down by Orasa Coolidge in 1880.

170. On the south side of the new road a quarter of a mile East of Gale's Corner, once stood the house of Amos Johnson 1855. Later owned by Oliver Smith, Charles Richardson and Charles Cornell. It was taken down 1937.

171. At the junction of the lower Athol Road and the new West road, the house last occupied by Horace Ball was taken down 1938. Lyman Peters, 1880, Andrew Smith, James Stevens 1855.

172. The house of Leonard Moulton on the Quaker Road was taken down in 1939. Joab Young 1833, Israel Houghton 2nd.

174. The Quaker House owned by Helen Owsley was burned May 12th, 1939. Charles Brewer, Simeon Brewer, 1833. Built by

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William Barron about 1760.

175. The Hildreth house owned by Ernest Phillips was burned August 12th 1939. Merrick Hildreth until 1914. Elijah Hildreth Jr. built by Elijah Hildreth about 1795.

176. Built by Jesse Rogers about 1840. Frank Pigora 1890, rebuilt into a bungalow by Ben. White 1939.

177. A few rods east of Common on North side of the Hubbardston road stood the Gibbs house that had been moved there in 1895 by J. W. Brooks. Taken down by Leroy Bryant 1939.

178. Near the extreme west corner of the town a few rods west of the No. 8 School-house was the house taken down in 1937 and removed to Newton, Mass. It was last occupied by Zachariah Wade, (C. A. Hyde, Eleazer Estey 1880, Lucius Sibley 1835, Artemas Crowl 1820, Daniel Grosvenor).

179. In the three cornered plot, south of the Hubbardston Road between Roaring Brook and the foot of the hill, stood the dwelling of Peter Gore, later owned by Reuben Ned.

## FORTIFICATIONS -

In a footnote in Reverend Edmund Willson's Centennial address, he mentions the fact that there were several fortified houses in town, referring vaguely to three specified ones and saying, "There were others". One was the Silas Foster Tavern at the corner of Nichewaug Lane on the west side of North Main Street.

Records indicate that the Charles Wilder place referred to, is now more recently known as the Patrick Carbery place. (cellar hole No. 64) From James Rice and George Marsh, we learned that they spent a night in the old "Block House" on the Carbery farm about 1870. It had been built as a refuge for women and children in the days of the Indian Wars. In a letter from G. W. Randall of Athol written in 1913, he relates regarding its location as he remembered it from the late 1870's.

"It stood near a line drawn from Jonas Brown's house (cellar hole No. 60) to the Carbery house, perhaps ten rods from the fence between the farms; a hole in the ground with no stone work around it, twelve or fifteen feet square and two or three feet deep. When Jonas Brown dug some ditches in the lowlands near his house, he dug up a four inch cannon ball, which neighbors decided had been fired from the fort in Carbery's pasture".

From the records of the Caleb Willis property, we find the following information. "In 1797 Caleb Willis owned the Captain Elisha Flint farm in the west part of the town which was bounded on the north by land he sold to John Hildreth, 'Known as the Fort Lot'." This has not yet been definitely located but the "Town road on the east" was either the Turnpike between the two four-corners or the Birch Drive.

Mr Willson said there were others and from the underground connections, indications are that the Stevens place on the Creek Road (cellar hole No. 54) and No. 103 on Nichewaug Hill might have been fortified. The Traditions of the Stockade on Petersham Street, where beacon fires signalled across the valley, westerly to Pleasant Street in Athol, were alluded to by Reverend Lyman Clark in his funeral sermon for Lucretia Pond in which he related, "She well re-

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membered the well beaten path to the wonderful spring near the old stockade''. Traditions in the Sanderson family, who lived in the house now occupied by Frederick Winsor, indicate that the stockade was a few rods northwest of their house; also alluding to the unusually fine spring of water.



# THE PERIOD of the REVOLUTIONARY WAR

*If Independence is gained, public debts must be paid, if not, I care nothing for life or property.*—Sylvanus How.

The intense feelings of our townsfolk in the period preceding the war of the Revolution, has been revealed in the publishing of the town records by both Edmund B. Willson in his Centennial Address, and Lyman Clark in his contribution to the Worcester County history published 1889. Therefore we cull only the essential points from those records.

On Jan. 4th, 1773, the town voted *without contradiction* to accept the report of the committee who had replied to the Circular Letter sent out by the Committee of Correspondence of the Town of Boston. This reply contained the following invitation: "The time may come when, if you continue your integrity, that you may be driven from your goodly heritages: and if that should be the case (which God of his infinite mercy prevent) we invite you to share with us in our small supplies of the necessities of life, and should the voracious jaws of tyranny still haunt us, and we should not be able to withstand them, we are determined to retire and seek refuge among the inland aboriginal natives of this country, with whom we doubt not but to find more humanity and brotherly love than we have lately received from our mother country."

On Jan. 2nd, 1775, "Whereas, a number of inhabitants of this town have lately been discovered to have entered into a combination as follows: "That we will not acknowledge or submit to the pretended authority of any Congress, Committees of Correspondence, or other unconstitutional assemblies of men, but will at the Risk of our lives if need be oppose the forcible exercise of all such authority", and that they will stand by each other and repel force with force on condition that any of their persons or property should be invaded or threatened by any committees, mobs, or unlawful assemblies. Whereby it

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appears to demonstration, compared with their former conduct and assertions, that they contemptuously compare the strength and wisdom of the Grand Council of America to an insignificant mob and an unlawful assembly; "and whereas some of these persons have heretofore manifested principles inimical to the liberties of America and we have the greatest reasons to believe that such combination has flowed rather from a desire to assist our enemies in destroying our liberties than from any fear that they can be under with respect to their persons or property.

"And whereas the Committee of Correspondence for the town has given intelligence to the town of such unrighteous combination, and the town, at a former meeting ordered that each of such persons should be served with a copy of such intelligence or complaint that they might have opportunity at this present meeting to clear up their characters and they have been accordingly served with such copies, nevertheless they have neglected to appear or endeavor to do so (saving only Joshua Willard and Ebenezer Bragg who avowed said combination).

"Therefore as it appears that those persons still remain the incorrigable enemies of America and have a disposition to fling their influences into the scale against us in order to enslave their brethren and posterity forever, and after all the friendly expostulations and entreaties which we have been able to make use of, we are with great reluctance constrained to pronounce those, some of which have heretofore been our agreeable neighbors, traitorous paricides to the cause of freedom in general and the United Provinces of North America in particular and it is the sense of this meeting that the aforesaid persons have forfeited the confidence of their brethren, as friends to liberty until such time as they shall manifest to the satisfaction of their brethren, the inhabitants of this town, that they have repented of their evil principles and been friends to the common rights of mankind.

"And further, it is recommended to every well wisher of American Liberty to break all commercial connections with any and every such persons, and with all persons who shall not do so until they will

[make a public recantation of their doings aforesaid.”

It was further voted that the said censure be recorded on the town book and that three hundred hand bills be printed and set up at the taverns and public places at the expense of the town and that “they be printed as soon as possible.”

A search of previous historians reveals them reluctant to announce the names of these banned Loyalists possibly because from the present viewpoint of one hundred and sixty-five years, the list of men under censure represented the mental, moral, and financial stamina of the town. The list of fourteen under ban of Jan. 2nd, 1775 were: Joshua Willard, Wm. Barron, Esq., Thomas Beaman, Joseph Stevens, Moses McClellan, Luke Lincoln, Joseph Smith, James Jackson, Samuel Frizzel, David Stone, Robert Goddard, Ebenezer Bragg, Seth Hapgood, Dr. Ephraim Whitney. On the following March 6th, seven more names were added as a result of the riot, followed by a siege of the Tories in the home of David Stone on Sunset Lane, now owned by Catesby Jones. The additional names were: John Chandler, Esq., Thomas Clement, Ephraim Whitney, Jr., Silas Negus, Ensign Man, Benj. Chandler, Jr., and Abraham Robinson. Although the names of Rev. Aaron Whitney and David Allen are not recorded in the above list, the later records show they were served as Tories. Rev. Aaron Whitney was not allowed to preach from the pulpit but conducted services in his own house as long as he lived. His lands were confiscated and sold by the town in 1779, the year of his death. David Allen's gun was taken from him at the time of the riot at David Stone's house, and later he was reimbursed by the town.

The incidents of the Sons of Tories waylaying and stoning Dr. Ball of Templeton, a Whig, on the hill by the present Petersham Exchange, then called the tan-yard hill; the parading of Amy Allen strapped to a horse and ridden through the streets subjected to the jeers and insults of the Whigs; the burning in effigy of the whole band of Tories when as many deformed limbs of the Liberty Elm were severed and cast into a roaring fire on the village green; prove both sides were guilty of atrocities unbecoming to the dignity of our town.

May 24th, 1776, “voted to dismiss Rev. Aaron Whitney from

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further services as a Gospel minister in the town, and to take any measures that may appear necessary for said dismissal as may be thought proper by the town."

May 27th, 1776, (six weeks before the signing of the Declaration of Independence) "the question being put,—whether they would stand by and support the Continental Congress on condition they should declare the American Colonies independent of corrupt and arbitrary Great Britain with their lives and fortunes, and it passed in the affirmative with but one desentant." The reason of such unanimity of action was a result of previous action by the town in depriving all Tories or Loyalists, the privilege of voting in town affairs, thus passing on to them the very same injustices for which they were in rebellion against Great Britain.

On July 4th, 1776, the town voted to pay the sum of twenty dollars to each soldier appearing well equipt for service and directed the town treasurer to hire one hundred and fifty pounds for that purpose.

Jonathan Grout was chosen to represent the town in the first Provincial Congress held at Cambridge in Feb., 1775. He represented the town seven years in the General Court, and one year represented the county in the Senate: he was a member of the first congress under the constitution in 1789.

### **FROM THE DIARY OF SARAH HOW (BORN SEPTEMBER 29, 1766; DIED NOVEMBER 3, 1849)**

"Petersham was then and has ever since been remarkable for a center of Political discord and contention. I was, as you will hereinafter see, born Sept. 29th, 1766. The hostilities between Britain and America began April 19th, 1775. I was then  $9\frac{1}{2}$  years old.

"I was a remarkable child for reading and it was almost natural for me at six years old to read the public newspapers, and any English authors, although I had no great advantage of schooling there being no school house nearer than two miles. My parents hired me boarded some nigh the school, and learned me at home what they

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could and by being naturally ingenious that way, I was before all other children in the town when I was eight years old.

"Doctor Wait, a gentleman of Liberal Education, kept the school which I attended and he had three Latin Scholars, (1) Doctor Simon Stevens, that now is a practitioner of Phisick in Guilford in Vermont; (2) Nathan Willard son of Joshua Willard, Esquire, formally of Petersham and who died soon after he had begun the practice of Phisick in Worcester Co., (3) Levi Bragg died a scholar not more than 17 or 18 years of age. These boys were 14 or 15 years of age. Doctor Wait proposed to my parents that he thought I had better study the Latin Language as I was so good a reader and so capable of learning; there was no English grammer composed or taught. My father immediately bought me an academic, a Latin Grammer and a Latin Testament. I was much pleased with my books and began and recited a considerable part of the Accademic. I never was more delighted with any amusement in my life than I was with it but the school after awhile began to laugh at me for it and tell me I was going to be a minister and go on with their mirth and make me cry until I could bear it no longer. The master and my father tryed to persuade me not to mind it but it was to no purpose. I thought it was so dishonorable that I gave it up and for many years I was more ashamed of it than I ever was of anything I ever did in my life.

"My love of reading led me to read the papers and books which were brought into the house, and as my father was a great reader, himself, I had an opportunity to see as much as any child. I suppose that it had a much stronger impression on my mind than on other children of that age. I can now recollect the fears and strange fancies I then had on that account. The first thing that alarmed me was a young doctor by the name of Ball, who lived in that part of Templeton now Gerry, was at Petersham in the year 177 (5?) had some political dispute with 2 young tories, David Stone and a young man by the name of Ayers. There was then a stop to all laws. On his way home, Stone and Ayers waylaid the road and threw stones at the Dr. and hurt him on his side. The Sons of Liberty as they had named themselves in Templeton were much disturbed and

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threatened vengeance on the offenders. They got notice and all of the friends to the King, in Petersham took their guns and ammunition and assembled at the home of Stone's father, about a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the Meeting House.

"Capt. Jonathan Holman (of Templeton) at the head of his company of Militia came and surrounded the house and Petersham also assembled together, and kept a strong guard all around the house for hours although it rained as hard as in the time of the Deluge.

"There was then in each town in this state a committee of safety and another of correspondence; they sent to neighboring towns for committees to come and advise them. They sent frequent flags in, inviting them to surrender but they refused until Samuel Byam of Templeton, I have been told, declared in a loud voice that he would fire into the house, without leave from the Captain. They at length surrendered themselves prisoners, and were taken to Winslow's Tavern for examination. After the committees and wise men from the East and from the West had set upon the matter they sentenced them all to be confined to the Town unless a pass signed by the Committee of safety, was secured, took away their guns, five of which were brought to our house, my father being one of the Committee.

"My father used frequently to say he had signed and pledged his life and property before the contest began and that he was as sincere in it as in anything he ever undertook. At the Lexington alarm, he went right from his farm and young family and was gone sometime, and though willing to stay was told it was better for him to go home, where there was so much to see to: therefore he came home, attended to his farm and sacrificed his property by selling his produce to victual and clothe the army and take public securities for payment when others were so fearful that they would not be paid, was unwilling to take these public securities and by that means they depreciated in value. Mother opposed him in doing it but in his zealous attachment to the cause, he said if Independence was gained, public debts must be paid, if not he cared nothing about life or property. Captain Ivory Holland who served as Lieutenant and Captain through the war had a large family of small children. My father bought con-

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siderable of his wages, let his wife have wool and flax and all kinds of provisions which her family needed. In the year 1775 he sheared 70 good sheep which I suppose would average more than 4 lbs. wool each.

"For awhile my father almost gave up the idea that these public securities would ever be paid, the congress was without power, the soldiers loudly complained of ingratitude. The people at the close of the War concluded good times, such as never will be on Earth were coming and had no fear of contracting debts; land and produce were very high; French fleets came to Boston for provisions and gave enormous prices, the people thought these things would increase, but alas! it was soon over; butter was carried to the store for about 6 cts per lb; rye was in my father's granary that would not fetch 50 cts per bushel; beef was sold for barrelling for about 15 or 20 cts per C wt. People that contracted debts when all was so high were unwilling or unable to pay. It was the most hard times I ever yet have seen, tho' my father's circumstances were such that it was not distressing to our family as we have since seen, but to poor people and the state in general it was much worse. Taxes after the conclusion of the war were very high and for a number of years my father was taxed \$100 per year but it did not distress him as he had town securities to pay his own tax, and the interest on his State securities would pay his State tax. Others could buy for about half price that which would pay their State tax, but instead of doing it many had their cattle sold and collectors had an opportunity to make half by paying up in securities which they might buy. There was a great deal of sueing in this state, people were uneasy thinking that something was necessary to be done that was not done.

"When all at once, a party without order or regularity in the counties of Worcester and Hampshire principally undertook to stop the setting of the courts in 1787. One Daniel Shays of Pelham was called their General; Captain Holman of Templeton, some said was second in command. Our neighbors, many of them took their guns and went with the party to Worcester, stopped the setting of the Dec. courts (1786) and then on to Springfield.

"James Bowdin, Esquire, was the Governor of this state, he

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called on Generals Lincoln of Hingham and Shepard of Northampton and other officers and men to go and disperse the Insurgents. General Shepard fired on Shays at Springfield, killed two or three men, then Shays retreated to Pelham. I felt as unhappy as I thought I could on this account. My oldest brother was gone on the side of the Government, and his young neighbors and playmates on the other side. Although I had lived through the other war, it was not like this which seemed shocking beyond description.

“On Saturday, just at dark (Feb. 3rd, 1787), we heard that Shays’ men had come to Petersham, made prisoners of a number of Government men as they were called and were coming for my father and a neighbor, Daniel Miles, who was at our house. I expected that war had come into town and perhaps into the house, that it was probable that a battle might be fought. I saw a sleepless night, expecting the enemy. Morning came and nobody appeared. We could see the roads full of people and some going across lots. We lived almost a mile from a public road and did go nowhere to inquire for news; but just at night a young man, one of our neighbors came with twenty-one armed men that belonged to Lincoln’s army. When Shays left Pelham, I think Lincoln was at Amherst; on hearing of it, he set out at night and travelled all night, coming on Shays’ men in the morning while cooking their breakfasts, as they had no sentries or scouting parties, but had taken possession of any house they came to, were scattered around among the houses nearest to the centre of the town. Lincoln’s Light Horsemen rode around in small parties and they ran in all directions; twenty or thirty would give up their guns to one horseman. Bradshaw, a Horseman, was making about thirty men give up their guns to him, but the man where they were, although a government man, told them they were foolish to do it, and made them go off with their guns. What they meant to do, I know not. Some said they meant to make an equal division of property, others said they intended to cancel all debts, and named over a great many of the leaders that must be put to death.

“They all went home from this town except Shays and a few of the leaders who left the state for a short time. The General Court,



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the next session, granted pardon to all on taking the oath of allegiance to the Government although there seemed in the time of war a great deal of spite; yet the animosity immediately subsided. Soon after the Insurrection, the plan for forming a convention for framing the Federal Constitution was adopted."

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"This new nation keeps by itself not mixing with other nations and to think how other nations make so light of it is a sufficient proof of the fulfilment, that the true Religion will be spread over the world, that the hearts of the people will be different from what they are now and the Lion and the Lamb will lie down together.

"To think what a part of the Globe has been so long uncultivated is now rapidly settling and at the same ratio it has begun how soon it will be all filled with people, think then what will become of the increase if the world is all full of inhabitants. We certainly must conclude by seeing everything in this world has its period and is gone, that when the whole is settled and peopled and come to its perfection that something greater and of more importance than ever was before will take place. Whether a final dissolution, or what, I am unable nor dare even venture to think, but I am of the opinion that this part of the Globe will be much superior to the other and the second coming of Christ will be on this side of the world. 'He that is last, shall be first.' "

*Mrs. Sarah How's description of the situation in the early 1770's.*

"Mr, Whitney by his conduct to Master Mann and attachment to the Crown became very disagreeable to the Whig party, so they left attending on his worship and at length got him dismissed by a vote of the town.

"It is certain if a minister takes a very active part in contentions of a Political nature to strengthen the adverse side, mankind of so wilful a nature that opposition in any forcible or obstinate way only sharpens them and makes them more determined. A minister is in duty bound to give his advise in any case but if he sets up to willfully carry any point in such contentions he weakens his own side, as Mr. Whitney did and gives the other side the advantage.

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"By such a contention on account of both minister and school master, among parents arose differences down even to the smallest children that went to school. The Tories were, some of them and generally, the richest and foremost families in the town, therefore they were insolent to the Whigs, or as they frequently called them, "The blueskins". How the boys would fight! And the girls would twitt and call names of Whig and Tory, so finally for many years they had but very little concerns with each other. After Mr. Whitney was dismissed he preached in his own house and they went to separate meetings. The Tories had their school separate as much as they could."

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"The first time I ever went to school was August, 1770; I saw that door broke open, being fastened on account of the master's political sentiment. The last time I ever went was to the same man, then keeping a subscription school for the very men that locked the door and served the actions being brought against him and my father; being 10 years.

1780. Aaron Whitney was then dead, the Tories had come in, and assisted in ordaining Mr. Read, although the war was not over, both sides hung the harp on the willow and united."

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*Mrs. Sarah How writes:*

"When I was about 17 years of age, the people called Shaking Quakers came into our neighborhood (1783). One family with whom I was quite intimate, joined that society; the man was possessed of handsome property, had a large house so there they held their meetings. People flocked to hear the new and strange religion, and I went among the rest a few times. One time in particular the woman called the Elect Lady or Mother of the Church and a number of the Elders who came from Ireland were there. More than 200 gathered together that day and their exercise was reading in the Bible, explaining and bringing proof in support of all they did. They professed to work miracles, speak in unknown tongues which I heard a number of them attempt, but whether it was any language or an unknown jargon I

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was unable to determine being acquainted with none but my mother tongue.” (Mother Anne Lee, at the Daniel Hanson house.)

## THE RIOT

The following record would indicate that the Riot occurred sometime in the month of February, 1775.

Record of the town meeting held March 7th, 1775: "Voted that the Committee of Correspondence be directed to state in writing the circumstances of the late Riot in this town at the house of David Stone and get the same printed."

The following article was found among the Hapgood Papers. Finding no date or author, it was apparently unfinished. Its lack of punctuation and capitalization is due to the fact that grammar was not studied until years later.

"Mr. Printer the following is a State of facts which is apprehended is necessary should be published in the month of—Last past, it was Discovered that fourteen of the Inhabitants of Petersham had entered into a Dangerous Combination against the Liberties of America on which the Town Proceeded against them as has been published Since which they have been very busy in meeting together with Two headed walnut Clubs and have used every art in Indeavoring to make Proselites until their Numbers increased to Thirty Six and one of their Number being lately at Templeton and using abusive Language Calling the Sons of Liberty a Pack of Hel hounds etc and having heretofore insulted the Town in the face of a Town meeting which the People had not Intirely forgot a number of the Inhabitants was induced to Tye him up and flogg him 21 Stripes the wednesday Evening following as one of the Persons who was in Company at the flogelation of the Person aforesaid being in Petersham was asauted in the highway by six of the Combinators at about eight o clock in the evening who have since acknowledged that their Intentions was to have whipt him some say to have Stript him and then Blubbered him all over and put on his Cloths and have sent him Packing its Evident they had Prepared a Pail of Blubber, for that purpose and its was likely their Intention was to have both whipt and Blubbered, but he being mounted on a Spry horse and they being Some what Deceived and not able immediately to Distinguish him from Two others who Rode with him in Company Prevented them from Laying violent

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hands on him nevertheless as he was making his Escape one of them Struck him with a Stick. Two others hove Each of them a Stone at him one of which of a Considerable bigness Hit him under the Right Brest which wounded him Considerably but he Escaped to a neighbors where he was attended by a Doctor and blooded and was able to walk the next day But not Returning to his Quarters at Templeton so soon as he was Expected and the Children Gathering for schooling and the Person assaulted having Ingaged to Keep said School not appearing Three of his neighbors being Concerned for his welfare and Suspecting some Evil might befall him more Especially as they understood he was gone amongst The Tories In Petersham Set out in quest of him one of which Carried his Gun and Bayonet and finding of him in the North part of Petersham in a wounded State and having Some Evidence of the assault, being Committed by the Tories some of which being mentioned by name proceeded to one of the houses where they understood on of the asuters was but altho they Indeavored to Take him he made his Escape, and Ran of the Person who had the Gun and Bayonet being Desirous to observe what part of the woods the Person Escaping Retired to and the Lane or Road Leading by the House of David Stone being the Readiest for such a Discovery he rode on full Gallop in order for Such Discovery until he came near against D Stones house at which Time the Sone of Said Stone with one or Two with him Run to the Road with arms; and ordered him to Stop or they would Emediately Shoot him through the Heart and in that manner Drove him back a Considerable ways but four or five of the inhabitants being Desirous to Inquire into the Conduct of the persons about near said Stones he Returned with them to the house the father Threatened to Shoot them if they would not Emediately withdraw from his house and further Informed them that there would Soon be a Sufficient number Collected to Take care of them on which They withdrew to the House of Mr. Winslow Inn holder and Soon saw a Considerable Number of the Tories Repairing to Said Stones with their arms some of which was Seen to load their Guns on their way on which the Sons of Liberty in the Neighboring Towns had Quick notice of the affair who asembled and about Twilight Set a gard Round

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them until Some Regular plan Should be gone into In order to Determine what was necessary to be done. and on fryday a Committee from the Body of the People was Chosen for that purpose who went through the examination in which it appeared that James Smith Ebenezer airs David Stone, Junior James Cloffin Nathaniel monro with Nathaniel Lincoln was Concerned in the Riot aforesaid and that Mr David Stone father to David Stone Junior was Knowing to the Intention of the asault in the Evening before it was Committed who solomly Declared in his Examination on fryday night following that he Knew not the Least of who was the Rioters prior to fryday Evening so afirmed they all save only the Rioters it appeared on examination that their assembling was In Consequence of a Clause in their Combination of asisting Each other on Condition that their should be any appearance of their being Called to account for any of their Conduct by the Sons of Liberty and it is Supposed that they vainly supposed that they Should be able on any ocasion to Terrify the Sons of Liberty in such a manner as Efectually Prevent any such Things Taking place but to Their great mortification they soon found that they was mistaken the People assembled was Greatly Exasperated on finding that so many had Entered into such a wicked Combination against our liberties and hearing that there had for a Considerable number of years Transmitted to England Particular accounts of all our Publick movements which they apprehended were full of misrepresentations and finding that they were so bold and Daring as to assemble with their arms in Support of their unrighteous Combination insisted on their Consenting to the following Restrictions 1st. that they should Deliver up their arms of all kinds to the Selectmen or Committee of Correspondence that not more than two of them should in future be tokether at one and the Same Time that Each and Every one of them should be Confined to the Town of Petersham without they obtained a Pass from the Committee or the major approving of their Traveling out and that they should be Continued under such Restrictions until Leave obtained from all the Committee or the major part of them who were assembled on this ocasion Should be obtained for their Release which they all Consented to and Promised to abide by the names

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of the Persons Restricted as aforesaid are as follows Joshua Willard Esq. Wm. Barron Esq. Thomas Beman Ebenezer Bragg Joseph Stevens Seth Hapgood James Jackson Thomas Witt Benj. Witt Benjamin Goodnow Thomas Mahan David Stone David Stone Jr. James Claflin Ebenezer airts Nathaniel Lincoln Doctor Ephraim Whitney Isaac Hastings Luke Lincoln Joseph Smith Samuel Frizzell Benjamin Chandler David Allen Daniel Duncan Nathaniel munro William Martindale, Ephraim Richimont (or Redimont) and Benj. Furnis who asembled as aforesaid save only Doctor Ephraim Whitney who happened not to be at home at the said assembling but on his Coming home before the matter was Determined (and the People Knowing him to be an active member) Caught him and Confined him with the Rest which is Supposed was very agreeable to him as he has Ever been very active in Indeavoring to merret highly of the Ministry. he was also laid under the aforesaid Restrictions. it appeared that a Number of other Persons had Entered into the same combinations (viz) John Chandler Esq. Nathaniel Chandler James Clemonts Jr. Thomas Clemonts Abraham Robinson Silas Negus Ensign Man Benj. Chandler Jr. but this not being Discovered until late in the affairs and Some of them being sudenly Taken sick and others out of the way and it being late on Satterday before the People had finished Dealing with those who they had Emediate Charge of Prevented any further Inquiry, it should be observed that there was no Evidence of Thomas Mahon David Stone Jr. Issac Hastings having Entered into the Combination save only their assembling as aforesaid."

# REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS OF PETERSHAM

*As prepared for the Petersham Historical Society, from Volume I to XVII of "Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War." By the Committee; Katherine T. Dexter, Carrie B. Belden, Corinne H. Babbitt.*

Note † means name is already recorded on Tablet in Memorial Hall.

## VOL. I.

ALLEN, AARON.† Petersham. Private, Capt. John Wheeler's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt. which marched on the alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., same regt.; service 3 mos. 12 days, 1775.—p 133.

ALLEN, ELIJAH. Petersham. Private, Capt. W. Warner's Co., Col. J. Whitney's regt.; enl. May 15, 1776.—p 147.

ALLEN, EPHRAIM. Private., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; enl. Aug. 21, 1777; service 9 days.—p 150.

AMSDEN, BEZALEEL.† Petersham. Private, Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt. which marched on the alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., same regt. enl. Apr. 27, 1775; service 3 mos. 12 days. Buried in Dana.—p 227, 228.

AMSDEN, EPHRAIM. Petersham. Pr., Capt. E. Knowlton's Co. Col. Dyke's regt.; pay abs. for travel allowance from Dorchester home dated Nov. 20, 1776.—p 228.

BAKER, EDWARD.† Petersham. Lieut., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt., which marched on the alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days.—p 608. error should not be Barker.

## VOL. II.

BOSWORTH, BENJAMIN.† Petersham. Pri. Capt. N. Hamilton's Co., Col. S. Brewer's regt.; service from Aug. 1776 to Feb. 1777; also Capt. Knowlton's Co., Col. Dyke's regt. March 1777; also Capt. P. Woodbury's Co., Col. Cushing's regt.; enl. Jul. 1777, disch Aug. 1777.—p 297.

BOSWORTH, NATHANIEL.† Petersham. Pri. Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; service June 1775 to Oct. 1775.—



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p 299.

BOUKER, BOWKER, EZEKIEL.† Petersham. Pri. Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt., June 1775 to Oct. 1775; also Capt. N. Hamilton's Co., Col. S. Brewer's regt.; also Capt. J. Wilder's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; enl. Jul. 1778, disch. Nov. 1778. Buried in 2d east Cemetery.—p 304, 343.

BOUKER, BOWKER, JOHN.† Petersham. Ensign, Capt. John Wheeler's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Lieut., Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. Doolittles regt., com. Aug. 1775; also 2d Lieut. Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; marched to reinforce Gen. Stark at Bennington Aug. 1777; service 9 days.—p 304, 344.

BOUKER, THOMAS.† Petersham. Pri., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days.—p 304.

BOWKER, SAMUEL WARD. Rutland District, also Petersham. Pri., Capt. E. Knowlton's Co., Col. Dyke's regt.; Sept. 1776, March 1777; also Capt. E. Stearns Co., Col. E. Wood's regt.; enl. May 1778, disch. Jan. 1779; other short enls.—p 346.

BRIGGS, BRIGS, AMOS. Petersham. Pri., Capt. G. Gates' Co., Col. R. Putnam's regt.; Bounty man; enl. 8 mos. 1777.—p 498, 538.

BRUCE, BRUSE, DAVID.† Petersham. Pri., Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt; enl. May 1775; also in Co., return dated Oct. 1775.—p 711, 719.

BRYANT, CALEB.† Petersham. Fifer, Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; marched on alarm Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; enl. Apr. 27, 1775; service 3 mos. 12 days.—p 725.

BRYANT, JOEL. Pri. Capt. J. Wilder's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; enl. Jul. 1778; service 13 days. Buried in 2d East Cemetery.—p 476.

BRYANT, SAMUEL.† Petersham. Pri., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt., marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service

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12½ days.—p 736.

BRIANT, THOMAS. Petersham. Pri., Capt. E. Knowlton's Co., Col. Dyke's regt., served for unstated time during 1776. Died before 1790.—p 478.

### VOL. III.

CALHOON, CALHOUN, ANDREW. Petersham. Priv., Capt. W. Henry's Co., Col. Whitney's regt.; enl. May, 1777; disch. July, 1777; service 2 mos. 9 days; also Capt. J. Houghton's Co., Col. J. Whitney's regt.; July 1779 to Sept. 1779; service 1 mo., 15 days.—p 22.

CALHOON, CALHOUN, CALLHOONE, JOHN. Petersham. Bounty Man, served in various regt. between 1779 and 1781.—p 22, 23.

CALHOON, CALHOUN, SAMUEL. Petersham, Bounty man, served as private Aug. 1780 to Feb. 1781.—p 22, 23.

CHASE, CALEB. Petersham. Priv. Capt. N. Hamilton's Co., Col. S. Brewer's regt., Aug. 1776 to Feb. 1777. Moved to Eastport, Me. before 1827.—p 223.

CHASE, HENRY. Petersham. Priv. Capt. N. Hamilton's Co., Col. S. Brewer's regt.; Aug 1776 to Feb. 1777.—p 225.

CHASE, JAMES. Petersham. Bounty man, enl. for 8 mos. Capt. Blanchard's Co., Col. Wesson's regt.—p 183 error, should not be Case.

CHURCH, CONSTANT. Petersham. Priv. Capt. B. Edgell's Co. (also given Capt. E. Jackson's), Col. J. Jacob's regt.; enlmt. 6 mos.—p 440.

CLAFFLIN, DAVID.† Petersham. Priv. Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of Minute Men which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days.—p 467.

CLAFLIN, CLAFLAN, DANIEL. Petersham. Priv. Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt., enl. Apr. 1775; service 3 mos. 12 days; also list of men mustered in Worcester Co., by Thomas New-all, Muster Master, enl. 3 yrs. Mustered 1777.—p 468, 470.

CLAFLIN, CLAFLEN, EPHRAIM.† Petersham. Priv. Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of Minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19,

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1775, served 8 days; also priv. Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt. company return dated Winter Hill Oct. 1775; also list of men mustered in Worcester Co. Apr. 1777; reported deserted.—p 468, 471.  
CLAFLEN, THOMAS. Petersham. List of men raised to reinforce Con. Army for 3 yrs. 1777, also drummer in Capt. B. Gates Co. Col. R. Putnam's regt. 1779; also pay roll for 6 mos. men served 1780 for 6 mos. 13 days.—p 468, 470, 473.

CLAFLIN, TIMOTHY. Corp. Capt. J. Houghton's Co., Col. S. Denny's regt.; service Oct. 1779 to Dec. 1779; 1 mo. 8 days. Roll dated Petersham.—p 470.

CLARK, CLARKE, DAVID.† Petersham. Priv. Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of Minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days.—p 571.

CLARK, ELI. Petersham. Priv. Capt. J. Sibley's Co., Col. L. Drury's regt.; marched Aug. 23, 1781, arrived in camp Aug. 31; enl. for town of Petersham.—p 524.

CLEMENTS, JAMES, JR. (also spelled Clemence and Cleamence) Priv. Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; service 9 days marched to Bennington to reinforce army of Gen. Stark, 1777.—p 621.

CLEMENTS, JOHN. Priv. Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt., service 9 days; also Sergeant. Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Cushing's regt., Sept. 1777 to Nov. 1777.—p 621.

CLEMENTS, THOMAS. Priv. Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt., Aug. 1777; marched to Bennington; service 9 days.—p 622.

CLEMENTS, WILLIAM.† Petersham. Priv. Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt., enl. Apr. 1775; service 3 mos. 12 days, also list of men drafted from Worcester Co. to serve 9 mos.; also pay roll for 6 mos. men raised by town of Petersham 1780; also enl. 1781 for 3 yrs.; reported on command Apr. 1782.—p 620, 622.

### VOL. IV.

CUMMINS, CUMMINGS, REUBEN.† Petersham. Priv. Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 15½ days. Residence given Templeton on marriage in

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1773.—p 224.

CURTIS, THOMAS. (also Curties) Priv. Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt., enl. Aug. 1777, marched to Bennington to reinforce Gen. Stark; service 9 days. Buried in village cemetery.—p 275.

DAVENPORT, DEVENPORT, JOHN. Priv. Capt. W. Mar-ean's Co., Col. Stearn's regt.; service Mar. 1778 to Jul. 1778; service 3 mos. 6 days.—p 453, 703.

DAVENPORT, DEVENPORT, THOMAS.† Petersham. Sergeant, Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Ser., Capt. P. Woodbury's Co., Col. J. Cushing's regt., enl. Jul. 1777; disch. Aug. 1777.—p 454, 703.

DICKINSON, DICKENSON, SAMUEL. Priv. Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; enl. Aug. 1777; service 9 days.—p 737.

DICKINSON, DICKENSON, SIMEON. Priv. Capt. W. S. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; enl. Aug. 21, 1777; service 9 days; also marched from Petersham to Bennington to reinforce army under Gen. Stark.—p 737, 753.

DILROMPLE, DELRYMPLE, ANDREW. 1st Lieut., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.; company marched to Bennington to reinforce Gen. Stark's army; service 9 days.—p 777.

DILROMPLE, DELRYMPLE, DAVID. Priv., Capt. J. Sibley's Co., Col. L. Drury's regt.; enl. Aug. 1781; disch. Nov. 1781; service 3 mos. 1 day.—p 777.

DOOLITTLE, EPHRAIM.† Colonel of regt. of minutemen service from Apr. 19, 1775 five days; also Col. 24th regt., reported commissioned May 19, 1775.—p 876.

DOOLITTLE, JOEL.† Petersham. Sergeant, Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775 service 12½ days.—p 877.

DOOLITTLE, JOHN. Sergeant, Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; enl. Aug. 1777; service 9 days; marched to Bennington to reinforce Gen. Stark's army.—p 876.

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### VOL. V.

DUNCAN, DANIEL.† Petersham. Priv., enl. June 6, 1775; service 2 mos.; also return of men raised to serve in Con. Army from Capt. A. How's and Capt. W. Spooner's Cos, term 3 yrs. reported deserted June 1778.—p 35.

FINLEY, FIENDIY, FINNEY, JOHN.† Petersham. Priv. Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; Marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Capt. J. Fletcher's Co.; service 3 mos. 12 days until Aug. 1775; also list of men raised to serve Con. Army by Capt. A. How and W. Spooner; term 3 yrs., 1777 to 1780.—p 658, 668, 671.

FISK, AARON. Petersham. Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt., Aug. 1777; service 9 days; Co. marched to Bennington to reinforce Gen. Stark; Buried in village cemetery.—p 714.

FLAGG, ELISHA. Petersham. 1st Lieut., Capt. W. Spooner's Co. Col. Sparhawk's regt.; Commissioned Apr. 5, 1775; also 1st Lieut., Capt. W. Mauren's Co., Col. J. Reed's regt.; service 3 mos.—p 750.

### VOL. VI.

GALLOND, GALLANT, GALLEN, JEREMEAH.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days; also Priv., Capt. D. How's Co., Col. S. H. Parson's regt.; enl. Dec. 1775; also Capt. W. Spooner's Co. on march to Bennington Aug. 1777; service at that time 9 days.—p 236, 237.

GANSON, BENJAMIN.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of Minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8½ days; also Capt. W. Spooner's Co. which marched to reinforce Gen. Stark, Aug. 1777; service 9 days. Buried in New Salem.—p 252.

GATES, JOHN. Priv., Capt. E. Knowlton's Co., Col. Dike's regt.; service Dec. 1776 to March 1777; credited to town of Petersham. Buried in 2nd East cemetery.—p 315.

GATES, SAMUEL. Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt., enl. Aug. 1777, marched to Bennington to reinforce Gen. Stark; service 9 days.—p 321.

GATES, SOLOMON. Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Oliver's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt., enl. Sept. 28, 1777; disch. Oct. 1777; service

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28 days; re-enl. and served in various regts. until Dec. 1779. Buried in 2nd East cemetery.—p 324.

GORE, PETER.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 23½ days; also Capt. W. Spooner's Co. which marched to Bennington Aug. 1777; service 9 days.—p 641.

GOULD, JEDEDIAH. Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; marched to Bennington Aug. 1777; service 9 days; moved away before 1790 census was taken.—p 674.

GROCE, GROSE, GROSS, THOMAS.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; service 3 mos. 9 days; also list of men mustered to serve in Co. Army May 1777; term 3 yrs; served until Jan. 1781.—p 904, 908, 911.

GROUT, JONATHAN, JR. Petersham. Fifer in Capt. E. Knowlton's Co., also Capt. J. Wilder's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt. 1778, service 11 days.—p 915.

GROUT, JONATHAN. Petersham. Colonel, 7th Worcester regt. Commissioned Jan. 30, 1779.—p 916.

### VOL. VII.

HALL, HILL, ROBERT.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; service 3 mos. 7 days; reported joined Col. Arnold Sept. 9, 1775.—p 899.

HALL, HILL, STEPHEN.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; service 3 mos. 8 days; also served 3 more short enl. until Nov. 20, 1780.—p 111.

HARRIS, HARIS, SILAS.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; In Oct. 6th returns reported to have died July 7, 1775.—p 285, 358.

HASTINGS, HASTINS, DANIEL.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; Muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; service 3 mos. 13 days, also to Bennington in Capt. W. Spooner's Co.; service 9 days.—p 465, 478.

HAWKES, JAMES.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 22½ days.—p 557.

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR

### VOL. VIII.

HOLLAND, IVORY.† Lieutenant, Col. Rufus Putnam's regt.; Con. Army pay accounts for service Apr. 2, 1777 to Dec. 31, 1779; also pay accounts for service during 1780; also Capt. J. Whipple's Co., Col. Putnam's regt. Jan. to Apr. 1781, acting as Brigade Forage Master; also return of effectives June 15, 1781. Moved to Stockbridge before 1790.—p 128.

HOLLAND, JOAB. Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt. to Bennington Aug. 1777; service 9 days; buried in Barre.—p 129.

HOLLAND, JOHN.† Petersham. Sergeant, Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of Minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days. Buried in 2nd East cemetery.—p 130.

HOLLAND, LUTHER.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8½ days.—p 131.

HOLLAND, PARK.† Petersham. List of men raised to serve in Con. Army from 7th Worcester regt., as returned by Capts. How & Spooner joined Capt. B. Gates Co., Col. R. Putnam's regt.; term 3 yrs.; also Sergeant Major, Capt. Morse's Co., Col. Putnam's regt. 1777; reported promoted to Ensign Oct. 1777; reported Commissioned Lieutenant Feb. 8, 1781; reported acting as Quarter Master in Col. Putnam's regt., Feb. to June 1781. Moved to Belchertown before 1790.—p 132.

HOLMAN, HOLMON, SOLOMON. Priv. Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.; To Bennington Aug. 1777; service 9 days.—p 180.

HOUGHTON, ISRAEL.† Petersham. Corporal, Capt. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; return dated Oct. 1777; also Capts. How & Spooner's list of men to serve in Con. Army, 1777; term 8 mos.—p 200, 300.

HOUGHTON, JOTHAM.† Petersham. Sergeant, Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; enl. Apr. 27, 1775; service 3 mos. 12 days.—p 305.

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

HOUGHTON, PHAREZ.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days; also Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Cushing's regt.; service 1 mo. 12 days; Buried in Village Cemetery.—p 306.

HOUGHTON, THADDEUS.† Petersham. Corporal, Capt. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; service 3 mos. 13 days; return dated Oct. 1775.—p 309.

HOUGHTON, ZARAH.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; buried in 2nd East cemetery.—p 311.

HOW, HOWE, ASA.† Captain, 2nd Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt., Mass. militia; Commissioned. Apr. 5, 1776; also Capt. of Co. drafted from Col. Sparhawk's regt.—p 327, 383.

HOW, ASA, JR. Petersham. Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.; marched to Bennington Aug. 1777; also Capt. S. Hubbard's Co., Col. J. Cushing's regt.; service 3 mos. 2 days.—p 327.

HOW, JOHN.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days; also Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt. Aug. 1777; service 9 days.—p 339.

HOW, SYLVANUS.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days; also Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.; Aug. 1777; service 9 days; buried in cemetery on the Frank Coolidge farm.—p 349.

HUNT, HENRY, WILLARD.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. Wheeler's Co., minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; service 3 mos. 12 days.—p 517.

HUNTER, JONATHAN.† Priv., Capt. D. Hawe's Co., Col. S. Parson's regt.; enl. Dec. 1775 for 1 mo.; also to Bennington in Capt. Spooner's Co.; service 9 days.—p 549.

INGERSOL, INGERSOLL, EBENEZER.† Petersham. Corporal Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; enl. May 1775; service



## REVOLUTIONARY WAR

3 mos. 8 days.—p 621, 614.

JACKSON, THOMAS.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days.—p 689.

JOLES, JOALS, THOMAS. Petersham. Priv., Capt. N. Hamilton's Co., Col. Brewer's regt.; pay abstract for travel allowance from Ft. Edward home dated Feb. 6, 1777.—p 807.

### VOL. IX.

KENNEY, KINNEY, NATHAN. Petersham. List of men raised to serve in Con. Army from 7th Worcester Co. regt. returned by Cpts. How & Spooner 1777; term 3 yrs. Receipt for bounty signed by J. Wheeler.—p 122, 126, 306.

KNAP, KNAPP, BENJAMIN.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; re-enl. Apr. 27; service 3 mos. 12 days; also receipt 1781 for bounty pd. by I. Packard.—p 328, 336.

KNAPP, ELISHA. Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Sibley's Co., Col. Drury's regt.; enl. Aug. 1781; service 3 mos. 22 days.—p 337.

LAWTON, JOHN. Petersham. Priv., Capt. W. Warner's Co., Col. J. Whitney's regt.; enl. May 1776; service 2 mos. 17 days; also same Co. Aug. to Nov. 1776; also list to serve in Con. Army for 3 yrs.—p 546, 574.

### VOL. X.

MAN, ELIJAH. Petersham. List of men raised to serve in Con. Army from 7th Worcester Co. regt. returned by Cpts. How & Spooner; term 3 yrs. Buried in Barre.—p 164.

MARBLE, LUKE. Petersham. Priv., Capt. E. Knowlton's Co., Col. Dike's regt.; served at Dorchester 1776; also marched to Bennington in Capt. Woodbury's Co. 1777.—p 215.

McCLALLAN, McCLALEN, DAVID. Petersham. Lieutenant, Capt. Wm. Henry's Co., Col. Whitney's regt.; enl. May 1777; service 2 mos. 9 days; also 1st Lieut., Capt. A. How's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.—p 427.

McCLALLAN, McCLALEN, DAVID, JR. Petersham. Priv., Capt. Wm. Henry's Co., Col. Whitney's regt.; enl. May 1777; ser-

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

vice 2 mon. 9 days; also Capt. J. Oliver's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt., marched to Bennington; service 20 days.—p 427.

MELVILLE, GEORGE. Petersham. Sergeant, Capt. Gardiner's Co., Col. R. Putnam's regt.; term 3 yrs.—p 625.

MILES, DANIEL, II.† Petersham. Minutemen in Capt. J. Wheeler's Co.; service 12½ days; also Priv., Capt. N. Hamilton's Co., Col. Brewer's regt.; service 1776, 1 mon. 29 days; also Corp., Capt. P. Woodbury's Co., Col. Cushing's regt., also marched to Bennington. Buried in village cemetery.—p 732, 791.

MILES, JOAB.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. Wheeler's minutemen; service 12½ days; also to Bennington in Capt. W Spooner's Co. Buried in village cemetery.—p 733, 796.

### VOL. XI.

NEGUS, JONAS. Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enl. May 1, 1775; service 3 mon. 8 days.—p 265, 309.

NEGUS, JOSEPH.† Petersham. Sergeant, Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; enl. Aug. 1777; service 9 days; marched to Bennington. Buried in Village cemetery.—p 309.

PARKHURST, JONATHAN. Receipt dated Petersham, Apr. 1781 for bounty pd. Parkhurst by Thomas Carter to serve in Con. Army; term 3 yrs.—p 915.

### VOL. XII.

PECKHAM, JOSIAH. Fifer, Capt. P. Woodbury's Co., Col. Cushing's regt.; receipt dated Petersham, July 1778 signed by Peckham and others for bounties pd.; service 6 mon.—p 61.

PECKHAM, ROBERT. Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.; enl. Aug. 1777; marched to Bennington; service 9 days; roll dated Petersham.—p 62.

PECKHAM, WILLIAM.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; re-enl. Apr. 27, 1775; service 3 mon. 12 days.—p 62.

PERRY, CALEB.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; re-enl. Apr. 27, 1775; service 3 mon. 13 days.—p 195.

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PERRY, DAVID.† Petersham. Corporal, Capt. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days. re-enl. Apr. 27, 1775; service 3 mon. 13 days.—p 198.

### VOL. XIII.

REMINGTON, BENJAMIN. Petersham. Priv., Capt. B. Edgell's Co., Col. J. Jacob's regt.; enl. June 30, 1778; service 6 mon. 4 days, in R. I.—p 106, 109.

RICE, AMOS, JR.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; enl. Apr. 27, 1775; service 3 mon. 13 days; also list of men raised to serve in Con. Army as returned by Capts. A. How & W. Spooner; term 8 mon., Col. Putnam's regt. 1777.—p 143.

RICE, EPHRAIM. Petersham. Priv., Capt. P. Woodbury's Co., Col. J. Cushing's regt.; enl. July 1777; marched to Bennington; service 1 mon. Son of Amos Rice born 1758.—p 153.

RICE, EPHRAIM, JR. Petersham. Priv., Capt. E. Knowlton's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; muster roll, Dec. 1776 to Feb. 1777.—p 153.

RICE, MARTIN.† Petersham. Fifer, Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; enl. May 1, 1775; service 3 mon. 9 days; also Fife Major, Capt. S. Pollard's Co., Co. S. Denny's regt.; service 1 mon. 12 days.—p 171.

RICE, LUKE. Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; also Capt. J. Houghton's Co., Col. Whitney's regt.; service 1 mon. 14 days, 1778, at R. I.—p 170.

RICE, RILL, JOHN. Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days.—p 337.

ROGERS, ABEL.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 10½ days; also Capt. W. Spooner's Co., which marched to Bennington in 1777; service 9 days. Buried in village cemetery.—p 496.

ROGERS, JOHN.† Petersham. Sergeant, Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of Minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; re-enl. Apr. 17, 1775; service 3 mon. 12 days; also Lieutenant, Cap. P. Woodbury's Co., Col. J. Cushing's regt.; marched to Ben-

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

nington; service 1 mon.; also Sergeant, Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Cushing's regt.; Sept. 1777; service 3 mon. 5 days; also Lieut., Capt. B. Edgell's Co., Col. J. Jacob's regt.; service 6 mon. 13 days; also Lieut., Capt. E. Stearns' Co., Col. J. Rand's regt.; service 3 mon. 11 days 1780.—p 509.

ROGERS, NOAH. Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Cushing's regt.; enl. Sept. 5, 1777; service 3 mon. 5 days; roll sworn to in Worcester Co., also priv. Capt. J. Houghton's Co.; service from Nov. 3, 1778, 17 days; roll dated Petersham.—p 515.

ROGERS, PAUL. Petersham. Receipt dated Petersham, July 2, 1778 signed by said Rogers & others for bounty pd. by the selectmen to serve in Con. Army at R. I. for 6 mons.; also list of 9 mos. men mustered by Thomas Newhall, Muster Master of Worcester Co. mustered July 1778.—p 516.

SANDERSON, DAVID, JR.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 22½ days.—p 790.

SANDERSON, EBENEZER. Petersham. 1st Lieutenant, Capt. N. White's Co. also in Capt. W. Warner's Co., Col. J. Whitney's regt.; service Apr. to Nov. 1776; also Sergeant in Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt. on march to Bennington in 1777; service 9 days.—p 791.

SANDERSON, JONATHAN.† Priv., Capt. P. Woodbury's Co., Col. J. Cushing's regt.; enl. Jul. 1777; marched to Bennington; also Capt. J. Oliver's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.; marched against Burgoyne; service 2 mon.—p 794.

SANDERSON, MOSES. Petersham. Priv., Capt. W. Henry's Co., Col. Whitney's regt.; May 1777 to June 1777, Mon. 15 days; also served in other regt. Paid bounty in 1781 for 3 yrs. service by Selectmen.—p 795.

### VOL. XIV

SIMMONS, SIMMINS, BENJAMIN. Priv., Capt., W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.; enl. Aug. 1777; marched to Bennington; service 9 days.—p 223.

SPOONER, CLAPP. Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Cush-

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR

ing's regt.; service 3 mon. 5 days in 1777. Buried in center cemetery.—p 735.

SPOONER, ELIAKIM.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days.—p 736.

SPOONER, RUGGLES.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days; also Capt. P. Woodbury's Co., Col. Cushing's regt. 1777, marched to Bennington; service 2 mon. Also Capt. J. Elliot's Co., Col. Turner's regt., served 3 mons. 25 days.—p 738.

SPOONER, SHEARJASHUB. Petersham. Priv. Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt; service 9 days; marched to Bennington, 1777.—p 739.

SPOONER, STEVENS. Petersham. Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Cushing's regt.; enl. Spt. 1777; service 3 mon. 5 days; also Capt. P. Woodbury's Co., Col. Gerrish's regt. of Guards; enl. Jul. 1778; service 3 mon. 28 days; also other regts. until 1780.—p 739.

SPOONER, WING.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 21½ days; also Captain 11th Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt., reported Com. Apr. 1776; also Capt., Col. Sparhawk's regt. enl. Aug. 1777; marched to Bennington; service 9 days; also Capt., Col. Cushing's regt.; ent. service Sept. 1777; service 3 mon. 10 days; also Cert. dated Petersham May 23, 1778; signed by said Spooner & Capt. How certifying certain men had been eng. & mustered to serve in Con. Army for 8 mon. for town of Petersham. Buried in Center cemetery.—p 741.

STEARNS, STERNS, EPHRAIM.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days; also 2d Lieutenant, Capt. Asa How's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt. Mass. militia, Com. Apr. 1776; Also Lieutenant, Capt. P. Woodbury's Co., Col. Cushing's regt; eng. Jul. 1777; service 37 days; also Lieut. Capt. J. Oliver's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt.; service 28 days, 1777 against Burgoyne; Com. Capt., May 26, 1778; served 8 mos. in Col. E. Wood's Regt., also Col. J. Reed's regt.; eng. 1789; service 3 mos. 11 days. Buried in 2nd East Cemetery

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

—p 874, 932.

STEARNS, JOHN. Petersham. List of men mustered by T. Newhall, Muster Master of Worcester Co.; served in Capt. Gates Co., Col. Putnam's regt; Mustered June 1777; term 8 mon; also list of men raised to serve in Con. Army; term 3 yrs.—p 861, 880, 934.

STEVENS, SIMON. † There is a record of birth of a Simon Stevens s. of Joseph & Doritha in 1760; but in Mass. records nothing is given.—(No record found.)

### VOL. XV.

STOWELL, STORES, STOWERS, JOHN.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen; service 8 days; also Capt. J. Fletcher's Co. enl. Apr. 1775; service 20 days; also Corporal same regt.; enl. May 1775; service 10 wks 5 days; buried in center cemetery.—p 133, 161.

THOMSON, JAMES. Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. E. Doolittle's regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; service 3 mon. 8 days.—p 673.

TOTMAN, SAMUEL. Petersham. List of men raised to serve in Con. Army from 7th Worcester Co. regt. as returned by Capts. How & Spooner; joined Capt. Gates' Co., Col. R. Putnam's regt.; term 3 yrs. Buried in Athol.—p 881.

### VOL. XVI.

WARDEN, WARDIN, JOHN JR.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; enl. Apr. 27 1775; service 3 mon. 13 days; also Capt. W. Henry's Co., Col. Whitney's regt.; service 2 mon. 9 days at R. I. also list of men raised for 6 mon. by Gen. Paterson; order signed by said Wabbin for wages due for service in Col. Sprout's regt. Con. Army.—p 365, 552, 554.

WHEELER, WHEELOR, ABEL.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; Co. return dated Oct. 6. 1775; also Capt. E. Knowlton's Co., Col. Dike's regt.; served in same regt. until March 1, 1777; also Sergeant, Capt. W. Henry's Co., eng. Oct. 1779 service 1 mo. 10 days.—p 958, 1012.

WHEELER, JOEL. Corporal, Capt. E. Knowlton's Co., Col. N. Dike's regt.; muster roll Dec. 1776-Feb. 1777; credited to town of Petersham. Buried in New Salem.—p 973.

WHEELER, JOHN. (no. 1) Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; enl. May 1, 1775; service 3 mon. 8 days; also (?) Fifer, Capt. E. Knowlton's Co., Col. Dike's regt.; muster roll Dec. 1776-Feb. 1777; credited to town of Petersham.—p 975, 976.

WHEELER, WHEELER, JOHN.† (no. 2) Petersham. Captain of company of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also list of Col. Doolittle's officers recommended for Commissions; Lieutenant, Capt. J. Fletcher's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; muster roll Aug. 1, 1775; service 3 mon. 12 days; also 1st Lieut., Capt. E. Knowlton's Co., Col. Dike's regt.; eng. Dec. 1776; regt. raised to serve until March 1, 1777.—p 975, 1023.

WHEELER, THOMAS.† Petersham. Drummer, Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 8 days; also Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt., muster roll dated August 1, 1775, service 3 mos. 13 days.—p 994.

VOL. XVII.

WHITAKER, WHITTAKER, SILAS. Petersham. List of men raised to serve in Con. Army from 7th Worcester Co., regt as returned by Capt. How & Spooner; joined Capt. B. Gates' Co., Col. R. Putnam's regt.; term 3 yrs.—p 24, 279.

WHITNEY, BENJAMIN. Petersham. 2d Lieutenant, Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.; reported Commissioned Apr. 5, 1776.—p 208.

WILDER, CORNELIUS.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co. of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days.—p 336.

WILDER, JOHN.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 23½ days; also Capt. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.; marched to Bennington Aug. 1777; service 9 days.—p 341.

WILDER, MANASAH. Priv., Capt. E. Knowlton's Co., Col. Dike's regt.; muster roll dated Dec. 1776-Feb. 1777; credited to town

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

of Petersham.—p 346.

WILLIS, CALEB. Petersham. Receipt dated Hull 1776 signed by Willis & others of Capt. W. Warner's Co. for advance pay for 1 mon.; service 6 mon.—p 502.

WILLSON, EBENEZER.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; enl. May 1, 1775; service 3 mon. 9 days.—p 534, 561.

WILLSON, WILSON, DAVID. Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.; marched to Bennington Aug. 1777; service 9 days.—p 560.

WILLSON, WILSON, ELIJAH. Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. Sparhawk's regt.; marched to Bennington Aug. 1777; service 9 days.—p 562.

WILLSON, WILSON, JOSEPH.† Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Wheeler's Co., of minutemen which marched on alarm of Apr. 19, 1775; service 12½ days.—p 572.

WITT, BENJAMIN. Petersham. Priv., Capt. J. Holman's Co., Col. Doolittle's regt.; enl. May 1, 1775; service 2 mon. 9 days.—p 693.

WOODWARD, WOODARD, SETH.† Priv., Capt. W. Spooner's Co., Col. N. Sparhawk's regt., marched to Bennington Aug. 1777; service 9 days.—p 789.



## SHAYS REBELLION

Record (at the State House), Pages 178-179-180.

### OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify, and declare that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is, and of right ought to be, a free sovereign and independent state; and I do swear that I will bear truth faith and allegiance to the said Commonwealth, and that I will defend the same against traitorous conspiracies and all hostile attempts whatever; and that I do renounce and abjure all allegiance, subjection, and obedience to the King of Great Britain and every other foreign power whatsoever; and that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state, or poténtate hath or ought to have jurisdiction, superiority, pre-eminence, authority dispensing or other power in any matter, civil, ecclesiastical or spiritual within this Commonwealth, except the authority and power which is or may be rested by their constituents in the Congress of the United States and I do further testify and declare that no man or body of men hath or can have any right to absolve or discharge me from the obligation of this oath, declaration, or affirmation; and that I do make this acknowledgment, professing testimony, declaration, denial, renunciation, and abjuration, heartily and truly according to the common meaning and acceptance of the foregoing words without any equivocation, mental evasion *or secret* reservation whatever. So help me God.

Isaiah Richardson

Elisha Purdell

Lemuel Hayward

Seth Winslow

Eli Barnes

Abijah Haward

Elisha Nash

Abner Mack

Ezra Anderson

Benoni Grover

Rogers Read

William Read

Samuel Morse .

Ezra Lampshire (his mark: x)

Grindell Rawson (his mark: x)

David Ross

Alexander Barritt

Benjamin Morse

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Elisha Safford

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Thomas Bussey  
Ferdric Grosvenor  
Israel Edy  
Amos Eddy  
Jacob Lawson  
John Pollard  
Noah Hutchins  
Reiley Williams  
Charles Eastman  
Nathan Tuttle  
John Pendell  
Joseph Johnson  
Andrew Wetmore  
Gad Kellogg  
Jonathan Sacket  
Aaron Scott  
John Stuaight  
Hezekiah Green  
Samuel Prince  
Asa (his mark: x—) Haven (?)  
Hugh Townsend (his mark: x)  
Jonathan Hill  
Levi Vinten (his mark: x)  
Joseph Towne  
Caleb Stutson (his mark: x)  
Orange King  
Morrison Jewel (his mark: x)  
Aaron Phillips (his mark: x)  
Asa Converse  
Edward Fuller  
Toby Spantin (?)  
David Harris  
Simon Read  
Abner Bates

Moses Smith (his mark: x)  
Caleb Winok (his mark: x)  
Joseph Walker  
William Wood  
Edward Payson  
John Rich (his mark: x)  
Nathan Pitcher  
William Thurber  
Radark Gilmore  
Andrew Howard (his mark: x)  
Jacob Chamberlain (his mark: x)  
Martin Chamberlain (his mark: x)

William Perkins  
Stephen Day  
Jesse Ceaser (his mark: x)  
Benjamin Goss (his mark: x)  
Ephraim Barker (his mark: x)  
Solomon Miles (his mark: x)  
Asahel Stearns (his mark: x)

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Jona. Raymond (his mark: x)  
Asa Richardson (his mark: x)  
Richard Church  
Oliver Ely  
Jacob Cooper  
Moses Ely  
Daniel Lyon  
Peabody Kenney (his mark: x)  
Tilley Fisher  
Elisha Babcock  
Jonathan Bass  
James Lealand

## SHAYS REBELLION

*Complete and correct copy of page 180 of the State House Record.*

“Worcester S. S. Petersham 4th Febry, 1787. The foregoing persons personally appeared and took the oath as well as subscribed the foregoing declaration before Jonathan Grout, Justice of Peace:

Jonathan Hunter.

Solomon Eddy.

Worcester S. S. Jonathan Hunter and Seth Eddy took and subscribed the oath of allegiance on the 6th day of February, 1787, before Jonathan Grout, Justice of the Peace.

Seth Gleason of Hubbardston, cordwainer & gun.

Nathan Holden of Petersham, husbandman & gun.

David Sawtell of Gerry, husbandman & gun.

Jonathan Sanderson of Petersham, husbandman & gun.

Samuel Waight of Barre, husbandman & gun.

William Wilder of Petersham husbandman.

Nathan Wheeler, Hardwick, yeoman.

Worcester S. S. Be it remembered that on the twentieth day of March, 1787, Seth Gleason, Nathan Holden, David Sawtell, Jonathan Sanderson, Samuel Waight, William Wilder, Nathan Wheeler, severally took the oath of allegiance and put their respective names hereunto, as above, before Jonathan Grout, Justice of Peace.”

Only ten years after the thrills and hardships of the colonial wars, followed it's aftermath in the form of Shays insurrection.

### CAPT. PARK HOLLAND, ESQ. WRITES OF SHAYS REBELLION

“About the third day of our tarry in Hadley, at sunset, we received orders to march immediately, as we supposed, for Pelham, but the fact was that General Lincoln had received information that Shays had left Pelham and was on his way to Petersham. We left immedi-

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

ately, late as it was.

The weather was comfortably warm but about ten or twelve o'clock in the night the wind changed to the northwest, blew furiously, accompanied by a violent snow squall and became intolerably cold. The snow was deep, though a fine sleigh path would have made it good travelling, had it not been that our artillery was in front with wheels so much wider than the path that the road was filled with loose snow which rendered the travelling as uncomfortable as can well imagined. We reached Petersham about sunrise next morning, tried, hungry, and frozen having travelled in the course of the night, thirty miles, the hardest march I ever endured. I found myself badly frostbitten, and found but two in my whole company who were not more or less frozen. Shays being informed that General Lincoln was close in his rear thought it best to leave town and so rapid were his movements that many left their provisions and some on the fire, preparing for breakfast. Our quartermaster had gone in front of us to look out for houses to lodge in, so when we reached the main street we had only to take possession of such as were pointed out to us, some of which were still occupied by Shays men, who soon left, and gave us a peaceable entrance, and never were a good fire and breakfast enjoyed more highly by any set of men. The main body of Shays troops marched through the town to the northern bounds, passing through a valley and were in a measure out of the cold wind. Here they made a halt, probably to consider what was best to be done; either to make a firm stand and give General Lincoln battle, or to make a final retreat. It appears they chose the latter as many returned to their homes." (Then follows an account of the Shays men spending the night in Capt. Park Holland's own home, recorded in John M. Woolsey's address.) Continuing with Holland's account, "As I before observed, when we arrived in the main street in Petersham we found houses provided for us. The one assigned to me was near at hand, with a good fire in it, and we began to thaw our frozen ears and toes when we were informed that a part of the house was filled with Shays men. We were not yet in good fighting order; however, after we had in a measure come to a sense of feeling, I



Captain Park Holland house near the Athol line, probably built by Josiah Willard before 1780. Occupied by several generations of Davenports.  
Burned December 19, 1932.



"Bobolink Farm" built by Shearjashub Spooner, 1760, on Oliver Street. Later owned by Simon Whitney, Oliver Whitney and Eugene Tolman.  
Burned in 1903.



## SHAYS REBELLION

thought I would look a little to our neighbors, but on inquiry found that they had all left immediately on our arrival, and had retreated so hastily that the officers left their swords and the soldiers their firearms.

They generally returned home, though some went further for their safety. I observed that we enjoyed our breakfast, and it will be believed that I needed as well as relished mine when I state that I had performed this long march in the cold without a morsel of supper the night before. I was engaged at a court martial in Hadley when orders arrived for our speedy march and when I returned, my company were all ready to march.

About noon after Gen. Lincoln's troops were comfortably settled in their quarters, it was reported that a company of Shays men were quartered in a house in the southerly part of the town. I was ordered to take my company with a sufficient number of sleighs, and bring them immediately to headquarters. I proceeded about two and one half miles and found that they were in a house about two hundred rods from the road. Here I made a halt and sent a Serg. by way of a flag, and informed the Capt. that he was requested to march to our quarters. The Sergeant returned saying the Capt. would send answer. They soon concluded to surrender, harnessed their horses, loaded their baggage and came to us saying they were now ready to go where we required. We now marched to General Lincoln's quarters when I informed him that I had brought the men as ordered. I introduced Capt. Foote, the commander, and after the usual civilities were passed, Gen. Lincoln asked him what he now wished to do. He replied that his most earnest desire was to return home with his company. The General replied "that is the very best thing you can do, and I earnestly wish it also," adding "if you need provisions or sleighs to carry you I will furnish them, you are now at liberty to depart." They now bade the General and all of us a friendly farewell, with their eyes filled with tears of joy and gratitude and departed. I believe it is very seldom that we see so many men so completely happy as they were. They would be the last men that would raise their hands a second time against the government. We remained in town

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but a few days when we were ordered to Barre, where nothing of consequence transpired, unless I mention a scouting party sent back to Petersham. We had been in Barre but a few days when a report reached us that a number of the inhabitants of our town who were out with Shays' army, had returned. A number of our men volunteered immediately and wished to go and see how they conducted themselves. Some of the volunteers being rather high bucks our Col. desired me to go with them. We accordingly, set off and sometime in the evening (quite late) arrived in town, where we found the men peaceable and quiet in their own homes. Some of our party had gone in ahead of us to the house of Mr. Joe Gallants who had been a conspicuous character in the rebellion. They found him in bed, ordered him up immediately, told him he must go to headquarters to be tried by court martial and probably hung. The poor fellow was panic stricken, notwithstanding his having been an old soldier. On my arrival he sprang to me for protection, and begged me not to suffer him to be abused. I told him he would not be ill used, that he might stay at home in peace, and if required, must give bonds for his appearance at the next Supreme Court. The assurance made the poor fellow quite happy, and after receiving a thousand thanks I left him. One thing operated in his favor with me. He had been out in the Revolution, in the same company with me, and fought like a good fellow, which I had not forgotten if he had. We all returned the same night without any further mischief and but very little good.

"I would observe, there are many things to be considered before we condemn the misled followers of Daniel Shays. Their leaders were ignorant and many of them deceived. Our government was a new untried ship, with many joints that needed oiling, to say the least, with no chart of experience to guide us, nor map of the past, by which to lay our course. We, who stood by the side of these men, in many hard fought battles, with a powerful enemy and witnessed their hardships and sufferings borne without a complaint, would much rather remember the good service they rendered their country, than dwell upon what historians have set down as a black spot upon their country's pages."



## SHAYS REBELLION

In 1794, Capt. Park Holland was chosen representative to the General Court, and was appointed by the land committee, to survey with Jonathan Maynard, the million acre purchase of Wm. Bingham, lying in the northern portion of Maine, next to the New Brunswick line. This tract later became Aroostook Co. and included the township six miles square that was granted by our state to New Salem Academy and some twenty-five years later was settled by a group of men from New Salem, headed by James Houlton. for whom the township was named.

According to tradition nearly all the houses along the route and near the village of Petersham sheltered a varying number of Shays' men on that memorable night of Feb. 3rd, 1787 or men from the army, during the next three days when they departed for Barre. This is not surprising when we realize there were a few hundred men to be thus sheltered and fed, and the houses too small to shelter many under one roof.

George P. Goddard of St. Louis in his paper upon "The Goddard Family" writes in regard to Shays Rebellion. "The final collapse of Shays' Rebellion occurred in the old house, burned in 1838. A company of Shays men spent the last night there, before they scattered in confusion."

Rev. Edmund Willson said in his address (page 106), "A number of Shays' men thought to quarter themselves comfortably at the house of Solomon Reed, who was a man of large size and of great strength and courage, and soon taught the "regulators" as they styled themselves, that he regulated his own house. He permitted them to occupy certain apartments but peremptorily forbade them to appropriate anything to their own use at their peril; and through the night he paced up and down the rooms keeping guard (sword in hand, tradition says) prepared to protect his family and his property against the slightest molestation." (Comment: this was probably the Aaron Whitney house, as Solomon Reed built his own house the following year.) Mr. Willson also relates the recollections of Rev. Samuel Willard of Deerfield, concerning the entrance of the insurgents into Petersham followed soon by the army of the government. Shays'

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

men left town hurriedly after spending one night, but the army "quartered themselves upon us from Sunday morning until Wednesday and left our houses in such a state as to inspire a dread of armies in every bosom." Without stating the number of men quartered at the Willard house, he relates that in their haste and confusion of departure, they left a *cane*, a gun, and a hat.

Capt. Park Holland writes that his home in the north part of the town (the Davenport house recently burned) was filled with Shays' men for one night who did no harm, other than eating every available morsel in the house, and causing a sleepless night for his wife who was ill.

Miss Nancy Parkhurst, granddaughter of Daniel Bigelow, relates:

"It was the close of a cold afternoon, Feb. 3rd, 1787 as the sun was approaching the western horizon, fifteen or twenty of Shays' men entered the house of the Honorable Daniel Bigelow; fortunately he was away, in Worcester attending court. His wife gave up the house to them, even the kitchen and pantry, reserving two rooms for herself and children, and they helped themselves to all the provisions.

"They came with frost-bitten toes, fingers and ears and she attended to these with poultices and good nursing.

"There was no sleep for her that night, her anxiety was too great for her eyes to shut out the sight of the intruders. She was startled at the sound of moving papers, and found some of them were looking over her husband's papers at the desk. She immediately arose, and stepping over the men lying on the floor, went to the desk and said, 'what are you doing here?'

"The answer was 'well, ma'am, we call ourselves regulators.'" She said, 'close that desk immediately.'

"Just then one of them raised his sword over her head but she felt fresh courage and bravery as she heard a whisper, "You better stop, you can't frighten her.'

"At dawn some of them who had been out to ascertain the weather, returned hastily, and excitedly—"Lincoln's men are upon us!"

"Lincoln was the leader of the troops from the Government sent to quell the insurrection.

## SHAYS REBELLION

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“Mrs. Bigelow said, ‘of course you will not have a battle here in the street, that hill over there would be a good place,’—meaning Chandler’s hill at the north east.

“But her fears were soon quieted as she heard the several announcements—‘I haven’t any ammunition’—‘I haven’t any lock on my gun,’ etc.

“They fled, pell-mell, very hastily on the road to Athol, in a N. E. snow storm, leaving many hats and caps on the way.”

*Daniel Shays was born in Hopkinton in 1747. He was a captain in the Revolutionary War, married widow Eunice Hayden, died in Sparta, New York, on September 29, 1825, at the age of 78. In 1820 he received a pension from the United States government.*

# What Became of Daniel Shays?

*By Walter A. Dyer*

The so-called Shays Rebellion against inequitable taxation, imprisonment for debt and post-war economic conditions in general, which kept most of Massachusetts in a turmoil during the year 1786, but which is treated sketchily in most history books, reached its

climax on January 25, 1787, when Capt. Daniel Shays and his ragged little army were repulsed by Gen. William Shepard and the militia in their desperate attempt to capture the arsenal at Springfield.

On February 4 the remnant of the rebel army was dispersed by Gen. Benjamin Lincoln at Petersham. Capt. Shays himself, with about 300 of his followers, escaped and made their way to Winchester, N. H. They soon disbanded, and Daniel Shays disappeared into that haven of fugitives from justice, Vermont, and into the mists of obscurity.

Shays was only 40 at the time, with many active years ahead of him. It would seem unlikely that so daring a leader, a veteran of the Revolutionary War and a man of unquestionable talents, should sink so completely out of sight, yet such was the case.

Gov. James Bowdoin of Massachusetts offered a reward of £150 for his capture, but he was never caught. He or his friends petitioned for pardon in February, 1788, and it was granted the following Summer, but apparently society refused to accept him.

According to one story, he fled westward and was swallowed up



CAPT. DANIEL SHAYS

From an old newspaper cut

## SHAYS REBELLION

by the wilderness. According to another, he returned to his home in Pelham for a time in 1792, but this has not been substantiated. There was still another rumor that he had gone to Canada.

At any rate, he never prospered, never outlived the disgrace of having been a rebel who had failed, and evidently had no faith in the hospitality and tolerance of his native State.

Undoubtedly he remained for a time in hiding in Vermont, and there legends have grown up about him which, more than anything else, have served to drag a red herring across his trail. One of the most interesting and widely circulated of these legends is delightfully told by Dorothy Canfield in her book "Raw Material."

According to this version, Shays, escaping into Vermont alone, made his way to a remote valley in the hills in the southern part of the State not far from the New York line. He built a hut on the hillside in the town of Sandgate, over the mountain from Arlington, and lived there for several years, with hunting and trapping. He had a rendezvous with a boy, to whom he brought his furs, bidding him leave seed corn, salt, and other necessities in exchange. He never saw anyone but this boy, and no one ever had any but the most fleeting glimpses of him.

Years later he heard the news of his pardon and learned that he had been in hiding unnecessarily for 11 years. He came out of the hills at last, an old man with flowing white beard, like a second Rip Van Winkle, to make his home in Arlington. There is still standing an old house in East Arlington in which Shays is supposed to have lived for some years after he came out of Sandgate and which, a generation ago, was known as the "Shay house."

There were things about this tale that aroused my suspicions. Vermont investigators informed me that they could find no authentic records of the rebel's residence in Sandgate, Cambridge or Arlington, and that they considered the story folk lore. It seemed probable that there had been a mysterious white-bearded fugitive in those hills who was reputed to be Shays, but who was someone else.

Yet there may have been a modicum of truth, for Daniel Shays was in Arlington in 1791. It seems most likely that fact and rumor

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have been mixed with speculation and exaggeration as the story has been handed down from generation to generation.

The first historian who appears to have shown any interest in what became of Daniel Shays, or to have made any inquiry into the matter, was J. G. Holland, whose "History of Western Massachusetts" was published in 1855. Holland said: "After remaining in Massachusetts a while he moved to Sparta, N. Y. In 1820 he received a pension from the United States Government and, at that time, his family consisted only of an aged wife. His schedule of personal effects at that date was meager in the extreme, footing up only \$40.62. He died in September, 1825, at the age of 78 years."

This statement was so circumstantial and unequivocal, and at the same time so at variance with the Vermont legend that it seemed well worth investigating. Parenthetically, I might say, that it is nearly correct in all important particulars but one—the aged wife.

In 1773 Daniel Shays married Abigail Gilbert, daughter of Jonathan Gilbert, one of the leading citizens of Brookfield, Mass. In January, 1786, Daniel and Abigail Shays were recorded as members of the Second Parish Church of Pelham at the time of its incorporation.

A delightfully sentimental picture was presented to my imagination of faithful Abigail following her disgraced husband into the wilds of Western New York, but this picture was destined to be shattered. I have found no record of Abigail's death, and I very much fear that Daniel may have found it convenient to forget all about her after that fateful day at Petersham in 1787, and to marry a younger woman later.

My first move was to check up Holland's statement by applying to the United States Bureau of Pensions. The official report, after reviewing Shays' honorable record as an officer in the War for Independence, continues:

"He was allowed a pension on his application, executed April 22, 1818, at the rate of \$20 a month, at which time he was aged 70 years and a resident of Sparta, Ontario (later Livingston) County, N. Y. He died Sept. 15, 1824, or Sept. 25, 1825, place not stated. The soldier married April 1, 1815, at Sparta, N. Y., Rhoda, her maiden name

## SHAYS REBELLION

not given. They were both then residents of said Sparta, where they resided for 13 years. She was allowed pension on her application, executed April 2, 1853, at which time she was aged 82 years and resided in Springwater, Livingston County, N. Y. She died Jan. 14, 1858, place not stated."

My attention thus having been drawn to Sparta, I have been able, from the local histories of that section and from notes of individuals and newspaper files to construct the following account of the latter days of Capt. Daniel Shays.

In the early days of the 19th century Sparta was a small frontier settlement in the Genesee country, in what was then Ontario County, N. Y. Many a man who had been unsuccessful in New England was lured thither by tales of cheap lands and golden opportunities, and it may be supposed that Shays, hearing these tales, moved gradually westward.

In 1814 he was said to have been living somewhere in Schoharie or Cayuga County, but of his occupation and the length of his residence there we have no record. In Cayuga County he fell in with one Jonathan Weston, a young man from Sparta, who had been teaching school there.

Shays returned with Weston to Sparta in 1814. He squatted on Government land "near Hungerford's" and remained there for three or four years. Hungerford's was perhaps the name of a hamlet as well as of a family. Weston was related to the Hungerfords by marriage.

In 1814 there was a boy of 14 who came from Cayuga County to work as an apprentice in a wool-carding mill and to live with Shays' neighbor, Benjamin Hungerford. The boy's name was Millard Fillmore, and he later became President of the United States. Young Fillmore and old Shays struck up a friendship that the former never forgot, and in later years he wrote of him thus:

"I remember Shays as a rather short, stout, unattractive man, and was always puzzled to understand how a man of such unattractive demeanor and so apparently retiring had ever been such a leader of men. I frequently enjoyed his hospitality and, although

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thrown into company with much older men, Capt. Shays always showed me every attention, and in their presence predicted an illustrious future for me. In latter years I remember that he drank rather heavily, but never associated with low companions, and prided himself on setting an excellent table."

Other witnesses have corroborated Fillmore's testimony. William Scott, another acquaintance, is quoted thus in Lockwood L. Doty's "History of Livingston County" (1876): "I can recollect that both Fillmore and I were much disappointed in his personal appearance. By no means commanding in person, his dress was quite ordinary and there was nothing to mark him as one to take the lead, and we wondered how the talkative old gentleman had become so prominent."

On the other hand, Col. Lyman of Moscow, N. Y., who also knew Shays, is quoted as saying, "He was not only a patriot and a soldier, but an upright and honorable citizen... a man of commanding figure and martial appearance."

This describes more accurately the man of 40 who led the insurrection in Massachusetts. It must be remembered that Shays was 67 in 1814, and the years of privation and disappointment had no doubt left their mark upon him. Perhaps Lyman knew him at an earlier date.

In 1815, according to the Pension Bureau records, or in 1817 or 1818, according to local historians, Shays married again. It is quite possible, of course, that his first wife, Abigail, had died in the meantime. The bride was Rhoda Havens, widow of Darling Havens, the tavern keeper in Sparta and one of the town's early settlers. Havens had come from Sussex County, N. J., in 1794, and died in 1814.

The widow Havens was living with two unmarried sons on a farm about a mile east of the village of Scottsburg, in Sparta township. If the wedding took place in 1818, as seems most probable, Daniel was 71 and Rhoda 47.

They lived for a time on the wife's farm and then, after Shays had obtained his pension for his Revolutionary services, he bought twelve acres of land near Scottsburg and built a log house and frame



## SHAYS REBELLION

barn. Here he spent the rest of his life as a small farmer and pensioner.

He died on Sept. 29, 1825, at the age of 78. He was buried in the old McKay burying-ground, now the Union Cemetery of Conesus, N. Y., about a mile north of Scottsburg. A friend, Samuel Craig, the village blacksmith, familiarly known as "Nonnie," marked the grave with a simple slab of slate, about a foot high, on which he scratched the name "Da. Shays" with his jack-knife.

For almost a century the grave of Daniel Shays was neglected and nearly forgotten. The mound became overgrown with weeds and briars and the name on the stone became almost illegible.

A generation ago Judge Lockwood R. Doty of Geneseo, in behalf of the Livingston County Historical Society, sought the co-operation of the Massachusetts Historical Society in providing a more suitable marker. The idea seemed to be making progress when it was blocked by the decided opinion of the late Senator George Frisbie Hoar, that Massachusetts was not interested in erecting monuments to traitors.

The matter was dropped for several years, but finally the Livingston County Historical Society decided to handle it alone and the present marker was erected. This is a blue granite stone, twenty inches high, bearing this inscription:

*Capt. Daniel Shay*  
*Revolutionary War*  
1747-1825

It will be noted that the "s" was left off the name (though Shays did that sometimes himself) and that the stone bears no reference to the uprising that made him famous.

Until very recently the period between 1787 and 1814 was an unbridged gap in the life story of Daniel Shays, unless one were to give credence to the legends. A year or two ago there came to light an interesting document which at least shortened the gap by four years. It is a power of attorney signed by Shays in 1791, and it reads as fol-

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

lows:

"To all to whom these Presents shall come, Know Ye, That I, Daniel Shays of Allington (Arlington) in the County of Bennington in the State of Vermont, Gentlemen, do hereby Constitute and Appoint Jonathan Danforth of Hardwick in the County of Worcester, Yeoman, my Attorney, in all Causes, Real, Personal, and Mixed, moved or to be moved for me or against me, in any Court of Law, in my name to appear, Plead, and Pursue unto final Judgment and Execution, with Power of Substitution.

"In Witness wherof I hereunto set my Hand and Seal this Twenty-fifth Day of April, Anno Domini 1791.

"Daniel Shay."

This document would appear to establish several significant facts: First, that Shays was in Arlington four years after his defeat; and, second, that he was not in complete retirement, but was in touch with persons back home. Though it proves that he was in the region of the legends, it rather tends to disprove the story of the inaccessible hermit in the hills.

Even more enlightening, perhaps, is the endorsement at the bottom of the paper, which reads:

"Worcester ss. April 25th, 1791—Personally appeared the above named Daniel Shays and acknowledged the above instruments to be his (blotted), before Me, Jona. Warner, Just. peace."

So Daniel Shays, a resident of Arlington, Vt., personally appeared in Worcester County, Mass., in 1791, to execute this document—probably in Hardwick—and we are free to imagine that he might have been trying to arrange his affairs preparatory to a Westward journey in search of fortune.

Recently a fact was brought to my attention that for a time led me to hope that I was on the track of something that would shed a ray of light on the period of Shays' residence in Eastern New York. He was, I learned, a Mason—a member of Masters Lodge, No. 2, at Albany, N. Y. Perhaps, I thought, he joined at some time during the mysterious 23 years, between 1791 and 1814.

Further investigation, however, revealed the fact that he joined

## SHAYS REBELLION

in 1778, or during the period of his service in the War for Independence, when he was engaged in the campaign in that section of the country.

And so the period from 1791 to 1814 still remains in utter darkness until some devoted antiquarian stumbles upon fresh clues.

### REPORT TO GOVERNOR JAMES BOWDOIN FROM GENERAL BENJAMIN LINCOLN

(Note.)—Incomplete sentences are due to difficulty in deciphering the original copy.

Petersham, February 4, 1787

Dear Sir:—

I have been honoured with the receipt of your excellent favour of 21st Ultimo and 1st Instant.

In my last I mentioned to you that I had received various applications from the neighboring towns and what answers I had given. These, I think had a very happy effect and the towns have felt themselves much interested in recalling their men and putting an end to the progress of the insurgents. I remained a number of days in Hadley refreshing our men who had experienced fever and fatigue. This gave time for the insurgents to reflect upon the offer which had been made them and for the Selectmen to interpose their advise and authority.

Friday we reconnoitered their post with an intention to approach them the next day. This movement gave them an alarm, and at 3 o'clock Saturday morning I received a flag from Wheeler requesting that he might have a conference with Gen. Putnam. It was granted and they met Saturday forenoon. To provide for his personal safety seemed to be the principal object he had in view. No encouragement on this head being given him he retired, and Saturday evening I was informed that Shays had left Pelham, and pointed his force toward this place, where it was said he expected to be joined by many others and where he could make a stand, as many towns in this vicinity were

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

in his interest, at 8 o'clock our troops were in motion, the first part of the night was light and the weather clement, but between 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning the wind shifting to the westward and it became very cold and squally with considerable snow. The wind immediately arose very high and with the light snow which fell the day before and was falling, the paths were soon filled up; the men became fatigued and they were in a part of the country that could not be covered in the distance of 8 miles, and the cold was so increased that they could not halt in the road to refresh themselves: under these circumstances they were obliged to continue their march. We arrived here at 9 o'clock exceedingly fatigued with a march of 30 miles; part of it in deep snow and in a most violent storm; when this abated the cold increased, and a great proportion of our men are frozen in some part or other. I hope none of them are dangerously so and that most of them will be able again to march in a short time. We approached this town nearly in the center where Shays had covered his men, and had we not been prevented from the steepness of the hill and the depth of the snow from throwing our men rapidly into it, we could have arrested very probably one half his force; for they were so surprised as it was, that they had not time to call in their out parties or even their guards, about 150 fell into our hands and none escaped but by the most precipitate flight in different directions but most of their men fled through Athol, it is said they intended to reach Northfield; this brings him near the line of another state where he may vainly hope to find asylum. Thus, Sir that body of men who were a few days since offering the grossest insults, to the best citizens of this Commonwealth, and were menacing even Government itself, is past sympathy, and it will not long, I think, have the least existence. It must be pleasing to your Excellency to know that this has been effected and bloodshed avoided, but in an instance or two where the insurgents have rushed on their own destruction, after every effort had been made by the officers of the Government to prevent it. That so little has been spilt is owing in a measure to the patience and obedience, the zeal and the fortitude in our troops to whom too much thanks cannot be given. A different line of conduct which Shays

## SHAYS REBELLION

flattered his troops would have been followed would have given them support, and led them to acts of violence, while it must have buoyed up the hopes of the abbetors, and stimulated them to greater exertion.

As soon as the troops are able to move I shall follow Shays and throw part of our force into Berkshire. Before I leave this place I shall make a disposition of the troops and discharge such whose services are no longer needed.

Notwithstanding the present state of things, much is necessary for the General Court to do, decided measures on their part will give support to our friends and dismay to others.

I am, etc, etc.

Governor Bowdoin.

B. Lincoln.

Copied from a letter in the MS. Div., Library of Congress,  
Indexed under Correspondence of Rufus King.

New York 10 Feb. 1787

My dear Friend,

My letter of Thursday informed you that Lincoln on the 30th of Jan. was at Hadley, and Shays with his Party at Pelham distant about eight miles—about the 2d instant Lincoln moved his Troops to Pelham and reconnoitered Shays' situation—this approach gave evident uneasiness to the Insurgents, on the morning of the 3d a Flag was received from Shays with proposition of dispersing his party provided the Leaders would be assured of safety—General Lincoln replied, that he would enter into no engagements on that subject—immediately after, Lincoln received intelligence that Shays intended leaving Pelham, and taking Post at Petersham, distant 30 miles eastwardly, and situated in that Part of the County of Worcester, where the People were the most disaffected to the Government—this information was confirmed soon after, and Lincoln put his force in motion at eight

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

o'clock that evening for Petersham, the early part of the night was moderate, but it became a violent northeast snow storm before three o'clock in the morning, and before daylight the cold was intense—the Troops could not be covered, and the cold was too severe for them to halt—they pressed on, and arrived at Petersham, at 9 o'clock in the morning—they entered the town near its centre, and the Party under Shays were so completely surprised, that the flight was totally irregular, and in all directions. 150 men were made Prisoners, Shays escaped and has fled into the State of New Hampshire, every man his own general—and I don't learn that there was a Gun fired, or a man hurt—

On the 5th Lincoln disbanded a considerable number of his Forces, and gave orders that the militia at Springfield should be dismissed except a Guard of two companies of 50 men each for the protection of the federal magazine—A Body of Insurgents had collected in Berkshire, and another body of militia under Genl. Patterson was assembled to oppose them. Lincoln marched on the 5th or 6th with a respectable Force for Berkshire; since the dissolution of the Party under Shays the Resistance will be small in Berkshire—I think this insurrection will now be wholly suppressed, and the Government in consequence may become more vigorous—I do not form this opinion from the Facts now communicated, but from another quarter, the Legislature of Mass. did not assemble until the 3d; the Governor then communicated the measures he had adopted, and stated that the Situation of the Insurgency required the most decisive measures—The speech was committed and the two branches adjourned until the next day, the Report was agreed to, and the Legislature, on the same day that Lincoln dispersed Shays, declared that a Rebellion existed in the Commonwealth, approved the conduct of the Governor, and requested him to adopt the most vigorous measures to suppress the

## *SHAYS REBELLION*

same—You will remember that when the Legislature declare the existence of a Rebellion the powers of the Governor, by our Constitution, become almost absolute—he may exercise Law Martial and in every Respect (regard) the citizens in armes against yr State & their adherents as open Enemies.

What think you of this—?

Farewel

R. King

Nine States are represented.

# HEADS OF FAMILIES

AT THE FIRST CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES  
TAKEN IN THE YEAR 1790

## PETERSHAM TOWN

Allin, David  
Allen, Eaphraim  
Amsden, Mary  
Amsden, Barzelell  
Amsden, Jacob  
Amsden, Eaphraim  
Allen, Elishua  
Bowker, Ezekiel  
Bowker, John  
Babbit, Erasmus  
Baker, Edward  
Bryant, Samuel  
Baker, Cyperian  
Briant, Azubah  
Brown, Joseph  
Brown, Frederick F.  
Bryant, Joel  
Baker, Joseph  
Barnard, Jonathan  
Bencraft, William  
Bragg, Ebenezer  
Briggs, Eaphraim  
Bosworth, Henry  
Bosworth, Benjamin  
Bigelow, Daniel  
Blanchard, Seth  
Burt, Alvin  
Bencraft, Benjamin  
Bridge, Richard P.  
Bridge, Jonathan  
Brooks, Joel

Clark, David  
Clark, Eli  
Chase, Abigail  
Curtis, David  
Chandler, Lydia  
Cummings, Reuben  
Chandler, Nathaniel  
Curtis, Thomas  
Clark, David, Junior  
Chamberlain, Samuel  
Cross, Silas  
Caruth, Jonas  
Clements, James  
Chandler, Benjamin  
Chandler, Benjamin, Jr.  
Chandler, William  
Calhoon, John  
Calhoon, Alexander  
Calhoon, Samuel  
Clements, John  
Clark, Jonah  
Calhoon, James  
Cutler, Samuel  
Croset, John  
Croset, William  
Davenport, Thomas  
Davenport, John  
Doolittle, Joel  
Dunn, William  
Davenport, Abel  
Dimick, Jesse



## HEADS OF FAMILIES

Briggs, Job	Dean, Jeremiah
Briggs, Job, Junior	Eaton, Ebenezer
Briggs, Amos	Edson, Nathan
Babbitt, Silas	Finch, John
Ball, Isaac	Farrer, Joseph
Blood, Samuel	Frink, Peter
Crosman, Josiah	Farnsworth, Eaphraim
Clements, Thomas	Frizzel, Samuel
Clements, Samuel	Fisk, Abigail
Felton, George W.	Hopkins, Samuel
Gore, Peter	Hastead, George
Flagg, Elisha	(Hatstat, George) ?
Flagg, Elijah	Hitchons, John
Furnass, Benjamin	Harvy, Elijah
Furnass, Benjamin, Jr.	Jackson, Thomas
Grout, Jonathan	Jackson, James
Gates, John	Jackson, Silas
Gates, Samuel	Johnson, Jonathan
Gates, Phineas	King, Henry
Goodenew, Jesse	King, Stephen
Gale, Daniel	Kieth, Ebenezer
Gates, Silas	Kieth, Luther
Groce, Thomas	King, Jonathan
Gleason, Joseph	Ketchun, Justus
Gallond, Jeremiah	Knapp, John
Goddard, Robert	Lincoln, Enos
Goddard, Joel	Lincoln, Caleb
Goddard, Nathaniel	Miles, Daniel
Goodale, Joseph	McClallin, David
Goddard, Rhoda	Mann, Ensign
Hawks, Abijah	Maccarty, Nathaniel
Hammond, Enoch	Molthrop, John
Holman, Solomon	McClallin, Moses
How, Silvanus	Morse, Samuel
How, Asa	Mahan, Thomas

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Holland, John  
How, John  
Hastings, Daniel  
Houghton, Simeon  
Hapgood, Seth  
Hart, Peter  
How, Benjamin  
Houghton, Simeon  
Hawks, Hannah  
Hammond, Mary  
Holden, Nathan  
Hapgood, Hutchings  
Hodges, Abial  
Hale, Daniel  
Holland, Luther  
Hunter, Jonathan  
Hildreth, John  
Hammond, Ebenezer  
Peckham, John, Jr.  
Peckham, Josiah  
Rice, Luke  
Rice, Martin  
Ross, Seth  
Reed, Solomon  
Rogers, Abel  
Robinson, Abraham  
Rogers, Thomas  
Rogers, Josiah  
Rice, Darius  
Seaver, Joseph  
Stevens, Joseph  
Stevens, Gardiner  
Stowell, John  
Stowel, Lemuel  
Stone, Reuben

Miles, Joab  
Mason, Newhall  
Mahan, John  
Negus, Joseph  
Negus, Joel  
Powers, Jacob  
Powers, Edward  
Peckham, John  
Peckham, Robert  
Peckham, William  
Parminter, John  
Perry, Patience  
Parkhurst, Jonathan  
Parker, Josiah  
Parkhurst, Nathaniel  
Partridge, John  
Partridge, Oliver  
Peckham, Susannah  
Williams, Silas  
Wilder, John  
Wilder, Jarathmael  
Wilder, John, Jr  
Wilder, Abel  
Witt, Thomas  
Ward, Elisha  
Wilder, Cornelius  
Wilder, William  
Ward, Daniel  
Wilder, Charles  
Wheeler, James  
Walker, Jotham  
Walker, William  
Winslow, Ebenezer  
Wheeler, Jonas  
Whitney, Simon

## HEADS OF FAMILIES

Stone, Jesse  
Spooner, Daniel  
Spooner, Clap  
Spooner, Ruggles  
Stone, Hiram  
Stearns, Ephraim  
Shattuck, Thomas  
Sanderson, Jonathan  
Sanderson, David  
Smith, Israel  
Sever, Robert  
Simmons, Benjamin  
Seaver, Daniel  
Stone, Amos  
Stone, David  
Stone, David, Jr.  
Stowel, Joab  
Spooner, Wing  
Stowel, John, Jr.  
Stone, Seth  
Sprague, Joseph  
Spooner, Philip  
Smith, Joseph  
Thayer, Ezekial  
Tolman, William  
Trumbull, Joseph  
Titus, Simeon

Willard, William  
Wheeler, Nathan  
Wheeler, Thomas  
Whiteker, John, Jr  
Woodward, William  
Willard, Joshua  
Whitney, Benjamin  
West, John  
Wilson, Moses  
Wheeler, Joel  
Winslow, Kenel (m)  
Woodward, Nathan  
White, John  
Willis, Caleb  
Woodward, Elisha  
Woodward, Benjamin  
Warden, Thomas  
Williams, Seth  
Warden, John  
Whiting, Phineas  
Whitecar, John  
Williams, Jarius  
Warden, Samuel  
Woodward, Seth  
White, John, Jr.  
Weeks, Roland

# PETERSHAM TAX LIST, 1814

in the

## AMERICAN ANTEQUARIAN SOCIETY

- AINSWORTH, SAMUEL. Dwelling house, \$500, east part of the town on the road to Hubbardstown, near Witt's Shop.
- AMSDEN, EPHRAIM. Farm without any valuable buildings, 60 acres, in the west part of town on the road from John Peckham's to Dana, \$600.
- BABBETT, EDWARD. One dwelling, one barn, near Cotton Mill on the road to Hardwick, 52 acres of land in Petersham, and 18 acres in Dana, south of Three Penny Morris Hill.
- BABCOCK, ENOCH. One farm situated 3 miles south of the meeting-house on a town road leading to the west part of Barre, 140 acres with an old house and barn thereon, \$1600.
- BABCOCK, JAMES. 100 acres, 1 house, 1 barn, \$1406, 2 miles southwest of the meeting-house.
- BALLOU, JOEL. 89 acres, 1 house, 1 barn, \$1200,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest of Meeting-house, on the middle road to New Salem, bounded on west by Enos Lincoln.
- BAKER, CYRUS. 60 acres, 1 dwelling 30 by 28 ft., two stories in front, 1 barn, \$2262, 3 miles east of meeting-house on a road to Gerry, bounded east by Ezekiel Bouker, west by Daniel Miles.
- BARTLETT, BAXTER. 9 acres, 1 dwelling, 1 barn, trip-hammer shop, \$500. Bounded on east by Simon Dudley, 1 mile southeast of meeting-house.
- BANCROFT, BENJAMIN. 50 acres, 1 small house and barn, bounded east on David Wheeler, west on town line,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles west of meeting-house.
- BIGELOW, ANNA. Widow.  $\frac{1}{2}$  dwelling,  $\frac{1}{2}$  barn, bounded south by road to Enos Lincoln's.
- BIGELOW, LEWIS. 46 acres,  $\frac{1}{2}$  dwelling,  $\frac{1}{2}$  barn, office building, \$1944.
- BOSWORTH, GEORGE. 59 acres, dwelling 40 by 26 ft., all up-right, 1 barn, 1 sawmill, \$2160. On New Salem Road near Monson Turnpike.

*TAX LIST, 1814*

- BOSWORTH, WILLIAM. Farm and dwelling, 30 by 40 ft., 1 story, and 1 barn, \$1400. South of New Salem Road and east of Turnpike.
- BRAMAN, DANIEL. 125 acres, 1 dwelling 38 by 28 ft., 1 barn, \$1944, 3 miles west of meeting-house.
- BOUKER, EZEKIEL. 48 acres, dwelling and barn, wood lot on Wolf Hill, \$2736, 3 miles east of meeting-house on road to Barre, bounds south on land of Samuel Randall.
- BOUKER, JOTHAM. 138 acres, dwelling, barn, corn barn, also a lot on unimproved land on Wolf Hill. \$3000. 3 miles east of meeting-house.
- BRIGHAM, EDWARD. 11 acres, 100 rds., dwelling, woodshed, two barns, tan house, bounded east and south by Amherst Hastings, 4 miles east of meeting-house.
- BROOKS, AARON. 140 acres, dwelling, 2 stories high, 40 by 30 ft., barn, bounded north by Joel Brooks,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of meeting-house, \$2880.
- BROOKS, AUSTIN. 90 acres, dwelling, 30 by 28 ft., 1 story, barn \$1800,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of meeting-house on the Athol Road.
- BROOKS, JOEL. 66 acres, dwelling, 38 by 28 ft., upright in front, 40 ft. barn, \$2650, 2 miles north of meeting-house.
- BROOKS and WILSON. Farm, partly in Petersham and partly in Gerry, 130 acres, old dwelling house, \$1300.
- BROWN, FREDERICK. 130 acres, dwelling, barn, half a saw mill, half a grist mill, and wood house,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from meeting-house, on south road to Barre.
- BROWN, JOSEPH. 90 acres, 1 dwelling, 46 by 36 ft., two stories high, grist mill, saw mill, 1 fulling house, 1 dye house, 1 clothier's shop, 1 barn, 1 wood house, \$3500, 1 mile east of meeting-house on road to Barre. Also 1 other farm called the lower farm on the south road to Barre, 200 acres,  $\frac{1}{2}$  saw mill,  $\frac{1}{2}$  grist mill, 1 fulling mill, 1 barn, valued \$2100, bounded east by Harden Clark.
- BLISS, MOSES. 30 acre farm, house and barn, \$450. West part of town near turnpike.
- BULLARD, ELI. 100 acres, poor dwelling and barn near north-

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

west corner of town.

- CALHOUN, SAMUEL. 50 acres, dwelling and barn, 5 miles west of meeting-house on New Salem Road, bounded south by D. H. Grosvenor.
- CARRUTH, JONAS. 149 acres, old dwelling, 2 barns, \$2000. Southwest (east?) corner of town, bounded west by land of Seth Ross.
- CARRUTH, JONAS, JR. 66 acres, dwelling, 40 by 18 ft., two stories, with back kitchen, 1 barn, bounded north by Samuel Dudley, \$1376.
- CARTER, JOHN. 44 acres, dwelling and barn, 3 miles south of meeting-house on road to Hardwick, also 7 acres,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile on the Dana road, also 11 acres on Three Penny Morris Hill, bounded east by Captain John Parmenter's.
- CHAMBERLAIN, CALEB. 50 acres, small dwelling and barn, \$750, on the Hardwick Road.
- CHAMBERLAIN, JOSHUA. 150 acres, dwelling, 36 by 28 ft., 1 story high, also one other small house and two 40 ft. barns, \$2500,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of meeting-house.
- CHAMBERLAIN, SAMUEL. 200 acres, with dwelling, 29 by 37 ft., two stories high, wood house and barn, 3 miles south of the meeting-house on the south road to Hardwick, \$3240.
- CHAMBERLAIN, SAMUEL, JR. 200 acres, dwelling, 37 by 26 ft., 1 story high, 1 house, 1 barn, 1 cyder mill, \$1700,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles southwest of meeting-house on a cross-road to Dana.
- CHAMBERLIN, PETER. 50 acres with no buildings on Three Penny Morris Hill, \$400.
- CHANDLER, BENJAMIN. 90 acres, an old house, one barn, \$1446,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile south of meeting-house.
- CHANDLER, NATHANIEL. 70 acres, dwelling 30 ft.square, 2 stories high, 1 barn, 1 merchant's shop, 50 by 14 ft., \$4020, 1 mile north of meeting-house on road to Athol.
- CLARK, HARDEN. 200 acres, 2 dwelling houses, 1 barn, shed and wood-house, corn barn and blacksmith's shop, \$3006.
- CLARK, WILLIAM.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres, dwelling, barn, smith's shop, \$720,

*TAX LIST, 1814*

1 mile north of meeting-house, on Athol Road.

CLARK, JOHN. 37 acres, dwelling 30 by 28 ft., 1 story high, barn, \$695, east part of town, bounds east on Barre line.

CLAPP, SAMUEL. 60 acres, dwelling 36 by 25 ft., barn, shop, cyder mill house, 3 miles west of meeting-house, bounded south by John Peckham.

CLEMENT, JAMES. 55 acres, poor old house and barn, \$280, 3 miles north-west of meeting-house on North Road to New Salem.

CLEMENT, JOHN. Dwelling, 32 by 30 ft., 1 story high, 1 old barn, \$400, 2 miles west of Bell School-house, on both sides of road, bounds north by William Peirce on North Road to New Salem.

COOK, SAMUEL. 80 acres, 1 small poor dwelling, 1 barn, \$1200, 2½ miles southwest of meeting-house on road to Hardwick, bounded on the north by Captain John Parmenter's.

CURTIS, THOMAS. 200 acres, 1 dwelling 38 by 28 ft., 2 stories high, 1 barn 70 by 30 ft., 1½ miles southeast of meeting-house, on south road to Barre.

DAVENPORT, JEROME. 16 acres, in Athol, small house, \$350, 4 miles north of meeting-house, on Athol Road.

DEAN, JEREMIAH, and SON. 100 acres, a small house and barn, \$1188 north-west part of town on the Turnpike.

DEAN, EBENEZER. ½ a building, covering a carding machine near "Flagg's Tavern", on road to Hardwick. \$250.

DICKINSON, DAVID. 125 acres, 1 dwelling, 36 by 28 ft., 2 stories in front, 1 barn, 1 shed, \$2160. 2 miles southwest of meeting-house.

DUDLEY, FRANCIS. 100 acres, dwelling and barn, bounded north by John Gates. 3 miles southeast of meeting-house.

DUDLEY, SAMUEL. 62 acres, dwelling 36 by 28 ft., 1 story high and barn, \$850. Southeast part of Petersham, on road from Harden Clark's to west part of Barre.

DUDLEY, SIMON. 1 dwelling, 1 barn, 1 mile southeast of meeting-house on no road, bounded on north by Israel Taft.

EAGER, WINSLOW. 130 acres, dwelling, barn, cyder mill, \$2700.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

- EAMES, PETER. 63 acres, dwelling, 40 by 30 ft., 1 story, barn 2½ miles southeast of meeting-house. \$1000.
- FARRAR, JOSEPH. 50 acres, dwelling, shop and barn, \$1620. Two miles north of meeting-house on Athol Road.
- FARRAR, RUEL. 2 acres, dwelling, barn, and shoe maker's shop. \$500. 1 mile north of meeting-house.
- FELTON, GEORGE, W. 170 acres, dwelling 38 by 30 ft., upright in front, 2 barns, \$3276, 2 miles north of meeting-house on Athol Road.
- FISK, JOHN. 90 acre dwelling and barn, \$1800, 3½ miles north-east of meeting-house.
- FOSTER, JOHN. 80 acres, dwelling, saw-mill and barn, bounded east by Enos Lincoln.
- FLAGG, ARLO. 60 acres, ½ dwelling 36 by 30 ft., 2 stories high, barn, shed, on Hardwick Road.
- FLAGG, RUFUS. 27 acres, on east side of Hardwick Road. Also ¼ acre on said Hardwick Road, ½ dwelling 36 by 30 ft., 2 stories high.
- FLAGG, SILAS. 46 acres, dwelling, 36 by 28 ft., 1 story, \$1100. South part of Petersham on road to Hardwick. One other piece of *intervale* 9 acres, bounded west by Stephen White. Also one other farm called the Blanchard farm. adjoining the first above, 86 acres with a small house and barn, \$2600.
- GALE, DANIEL. 170 acres, dwelling 40 by 30 ft., 1 story, also one dwelling, 26 by 20 ft., 1 story, 2 barns, \$2100. 3 miles west of meeting-house, on Monson Turnpike.
- GALLOND, JEREMIAH. 143 acres, one house, one barn and cydermill, \$1600, on south Hardwick Road bounded on the north by Levi Houghton.
- GALLOND, JOSEPH. 125 acres on south road to Hardwick, 3 miles south of meeting-house, 1 dwelling, 40 by 30 ft., 2 stories high, barn, wood-house, storehouse, \$2200.
- GATES, JAMES. 35 acres, house and barn, \$864, 1 mile north of meeting-house, bounded east by Luther Holland's farm.
- GATES, JOHN. 225 acres, house, 38 by 28 ft., 2 stories high, 2



*TAX LIST, 1814*

- barns, also an old house and barn. \$5400. 2 miles east of meeting-house on Barre Road.
- GATES, OLIVER, C. 8 rds., dwelling, 40 by 20, 2 stories high, with store adjoining 44 ft. long, \$600, 2 miles east of meeting-house. Also one other farm called the Clement farm, situated on the road from Brown's Mills to Chandler's Store and containing 70 acres with a dwelling 40 by 20 ft., 2 stories high, 1 barn, 1 stillhouse. \$1100.
- GATES, SAMUEL. 45 acres, small house and barn, and a smith's shop. \$1000. 1½ miles east of meeting-house on Barre Road.
- GLEASON, JOSEPH (ESTATE). 70 acres, dwelling, 40 by 30, 2 stories high, barn, \$1600. 1 mile west of meeting-house bounded northeast by Samuel Stone.
- GLEASON, JOSEPH and CURTIS. 265 acres, dwelling 38 by 22, and 2 stories with back kitchen, 1 barn 60 ft., and 1 barn 40 ft., \$4000. 1 mile west of meeting-house on New Salem Road.
- GODDARD, DAVID. 90 acres. dwelling, barn, cyder-mill on New Salem Road. \$1440.
- GODDARD, JOEL. 114 acres, dwelling 34 by 18 ft., 2 barns, \$2300. 2 miles southwest of meeting-house.
- GODDARD, NATHANIEL, 80 acres, dwelling, barn, and wood-house, \$1400. 1½ miles southwest of meeting-house.
- GODDARD, ROBERT. 170 acres, dwelling 38 ft. square, 2 stories, 2 barns called the tan yard farm, north of meeting-house on Athol Road.
- GODDARD, STEPHEN. 118 acres, house, 36 by 28, two stories, barn and cyder-mill, \$1680. 1 mile southwest of meeting-house.
- GROSVENOR, DAVID, and DANIEL. 200 acres, dwelling, 38 by 28 ft., barn, \$2000, 5 miles west of meeting-house on New Salem south road.
- HAMMOND, EBENEZER. 160 acres, 1 house, barn, shop and wood-house, \$2350. 4 miles south of meeting-house on the Hardwick Road.
- HAPGOOD, EBER. 120 acres on Chimney Hill, dwelling 36 by 28 ft., 2 stories high, 2 barns, \$2380.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

- HASKELL, STEPHEN. House, barn, workshop, \$2160, two miles northeast of meeting-house on the road to Gerry.
- HATHEWAY, JOEL.  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre, with dwelling; \$400. 3 miles south of the meeting-house on the south road to Hardwick near Captain Gallond's.
- HATSTATT, THOMAS. 45 acres, with a poor small hut and barn. \$330. 4 miles west of meeting-house on south road to New Salem, bounded west by Shiverack Weeks.
- HILDRETH, ELIJAH. 94 acres, 1 story house 28 by 26 ft., and 2 barns, \$1600.
- HILDRETH, JOHN. 110 acres, dwelling, 36 by 28 ft., 1 story, 1 barn, \$1950.
- INGALLS, JOSEPH. 73 acres, dwelling and barn, northeast part of town bounded south by Daniel Ward.
- HILL, ELIAS. Saw-mill, near cotton factory, \$300.
- HOLLAND, LUTHER. 45 acres, 1 story dwelling, 36 by 26 ft., barn,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile north of meeting-house.
- HOUGHTON, LEVI. 300 acres, dwelling, 40 by 30 ft., 2 stories in front, chaise house, 66 by 16 ft. Three 40 ft. barns and an old dwelling, \$5190.
- JOHNSON, JONATHAN, SENIOR and JUNIOR. 100 acres, dwelling and barn, 3 miles west of meeting-house.
- JOHNSON, LEVI. 43 acres, 5 miles west of town bounded north by Daniel Grosvenor, and east by Shiverack Weeks.
- LINCOLN, ALANSON, and BURT. 6 acres with a small building used for a wire pulling factory. 2 miles west of meeting-house by Enos Lincoln's.
- LINCOLN, CALEB. 100 acres, dwelling, 36 by 45 ft., bounded north by Dexter Stowell,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of meeting-house, \$1000.
- LINCOLN, ENOS. 110 acres, 1 dwelling, 30 by 22 ft., 1 story high, barn and Cooper's shop, \$2500.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest of meeting-house, bounded east by Joel Ballou.
- LITTLEFIELD, EPHRAIM. 66 acres, dwelling 30 by 28 ft., 1 story high, barn, \$1100. Bounded by James Gates on the east

*TAX LIST, 1814*

and by Asa Pond on the north.

McCARTY, NATHANIEL. 6 acres and 1 elegant dwelling, barn, etc., \$3900.

McLALLAN, HARRINGTON. 125 acres, 1 story dwelling, 37 by 30 ft., \$2300. North part of town on Athol Road.

MARSH, MOSES. 4½ miles east of meeting-house on road to Barre, bounds south on James Rice.

MORGAN, HENRY. 130 acres, 2 story dwelling, 38 by 28 ft. and one other 1 story house the same size. 1 barn, \$2600, ½ mile southwest of the meeting-house on the Hardwick Road.

NEGUS, JOEL. 2 acres, 1 story dwelling, 28 by 38 ft., barn, \$850. bounded on the east by the village common.

NEGUS, JOHN. 42 acres with small house and barn. 2 miles south of meeting-house on east side of south road to Hardwick.

NEGUS, PAUL. 162 acres, 1 dwelling, 1 barn, \$1900. 2 miles south of the meeting-house, bounds west on David Dickinson.

PECKHAM, WIDOW MARY. 1 house, 1 barn, 1 shop, \$900. 50 rods south of meeting-house bounded on three sides by highway.

POND, ASA. 300 acres and 2 story dwelling 36 by 36 ft., 1 mile north of village.

POND, JUDITH and LUCRETIA. Reed farm. 163 acres, 2 story dwelling, 40 by 32 ft.

POWERS, DAVID. 140 acres, 2 story dwelling, 40 by 30 ft., \$2500. Northeast part of town.

RICE, MARTIN. 35 acres. 1 story dwelling 36 by 28 ft., barn, \$960. Bounded on the south by County Road and Pond farm.

ROSS, SETH. 120 acres, dwelling, 2 stories in front, 36 by 28 ft., barn, 3½ miles south of meeting-house on South Hardwick Road.

SIMMONS, BENJAMIN. 100 acres, dwelling, 30 by 29 ft., 1¾ miles west of meeting-house on New Salem Road. Barn and other land on Frink's Hill, etc., \$3292.

SPOONER, WING. 78 acres, dwelling 40 by 19 ft., with back kitchen, one story high, malt mill and barn. \$2065.

SPRAGUE, CALEB. 4 miles north on a cross-road.

SPRAGUE, TIMOTHY. 100 acres. 2 miles west on south New

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

Salem Road.

STONE, SAMUEL. 93 acres, 1 mile west of meeting-house.

STEARNS, JOEL. 66 acres, 1 dwelling and barn, south of meeting-house bounded south by Levi Houghton, east by town road.

STOWELL, ASAH. 80 acres, dwelling 36 by 21 ft., upright in front. Wood-house and barn, half mile south of meeting-house.

TAFT, ISRAEL. 72 acres, small house, 2 barns, wood-house, bounded west by Nathaniel McCarty and Nathan Prentiss.

WILLARD, JOSIAH. 115 acres with dwelling and barn.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest of meeting-house on north road to New Salem.

WINN, THEODORE. 11 acres, 1 small dwelling and barn, clothier's shop and fulling mill, 4 miles southwest of meeting-house on road from Flagg's Tavern to Dana. Bounds east and north on Arlo Flagg.

WOODWARD, LINAS.  $\frac{1}{2}$  dwelling, 3 miles southwest of meeting-house. Bounds west by Hardwick Road, south by road to Elisha Woodward's.

WHEELER, DAVID. 124 acres.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of meeting-house. Bounds east on Samuel Stone's.

WHEELER, JOEL. West of Turnpike on discontinued road to New Salem.

WILDER, WIDOW BETSEY. 23 acres,  $\frac{1}{3}$  of farm, dwelling and barn north of John Gates' property.

WOOD, CHANDLER. 1 acre, with small house, blacksmith shop, and trip hammer and cording machine under same roof, \$400. Situated on road to Hardwick near Flagg's Tavern.

WOODWARD, WILLIAM.  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre with dwelling a few rods east of cotton factory.

FROM JARED WEED'S  
"HISTORY OF PETERSHAM"  
Read before a meeting of the Lyceum, March 26, 1840

After relating the tolerable, almost peaceful, relations of the first English settlers and the Indian Sachem, Massasoit, and his son Alexander, for fifty years, until the increased number of the English began to profess great superiority over their ignorant neighbors, and began to take advantage of them by gross, premeditated insults to them, Mr. Weed relates:

"For some pretended cause of complaint which does not appear on the page of history perhaps for the very good reason that it was groundless, Alexander was summoned to Plymouth to answer for his undutiful conduct. The proud spirit of the savage was humbled, and the turbulence of his wounded feelings threw him into a fever of which he soon after died and was succeeded by his brother Phillip, who although a youth was a bold and daring spirit and the indignities offered by the English to his predecessor and deceased brother excited a subtle and settled spirit of revenge within him against the whole race of Whites. The English had gradually and constantly extended their encroachments upon the Indian possessions and hunting grounds and perhaps foreseeing the ultimate extermination of his own race unless by timely resistance, the English could be kept within their own limits or driven out of the land, Phillip organized a confederacy of all the tribes in New England and embracing, it is said, the Mohawks a powerful tribe in and about Albany, for the professed purpose of destroying every English settlement in the land. Phillip, however, whose master spirit organized and controlled the whole confederacy lived but to begin the contest. He was betrayed and slain by one of his own men the second year of the war, his body hanged in quarters and his head carried to Plymouth on Thanksgiving Day which, no doubt, added zest to the festivities of that occasion! For fifty years, there continued one of the most bloody, uncompromising, sanguinary wars that was ever waged in any country. It was a war of extermination. It spared neither sex nor age, and it was extended on the seaboard and in the interior among frontier settlements from

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

Connecticut to the coast of Maine, with but short intervals. This was literally a period of blood and no description can adequately portray the distress, sufferings and horrors of the frontier settlements during that eventful period from 1675 to 1726 when a general peace was established and ratified at Casco Bay (now Portland) in the State of Maine. After careful research into the history of those times, I am clearly of the opinion that the English were the aggressors by offering ignominious insults to the reigning Indian chief, and through him to all his tributaries. The Indians were ignorant, unlettered and in a state of nature; they were not governed by laws and moral principles of civilization, they were called heathen, infidels, surly wilful dogs, and were considered fair and lawful gain for those who claimed for themselves superior moral worth and Christian principles.

“A reward was offered for the scalps of Indians and the worst battles of all times were fought with the Pequawket tribe, ruled over by Chieftain Paugus, in southern New Hampshire and Maine, then a part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.”

After a vivid description of this conflict, Mr. Weed continued.

“I do not find the names of any who fought in that conflict, annexed to the petition for the grant of a township. Evidently the petitioners performed earlier services under Captain Lovell who had been engaged as a leader in partisan wars for many years before his death.”

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“Many, if not most of the towns in the Commonwealth were originally granted by General Court to the first proprietors as a price of blood or as a reward for civil services. The instrument of conveyance by which these original proprietors acquired title to the Town of Petersham was sealed with the blood of the original and rightful possessors of the soil.

“The petitioners received the prompt action of the Colonial Legislature, as in those days public officers and legislators were known rather by their acts than words. He who could act with energy and prompt decision was then considered more useful to the public than one who could make a six day speech on a motion to adjourn for rest and refreshment! The petition was presented in the evening, and

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

the following day the report was made and accepted.

“The propriety had many rights that were granted to incorporated towns though somewhat limited and restricted; they could erect school-houses and raise money by taxation for the support of schools and houses of public worship, to contract and compensate clergymen; but in the assessment of taxes they were confined exclusively to real estate and all assessments of taxes were apportioned equally upon the rights of the proprietors without reference to special valuation until improved cultivation or location created an inequality of real values. The proprietors had the right to locate and build roads and most of the roads were so located before the incorporation of the town. However, the proprietors had no right of representation in the Legislature by delegates so had no voice in the enactment of laws by which they were governed. The first town meeting following the act of incorporation was held August 19th, 1754 for election of officers, and at the second meeting October 1st, 1754 the town voted to build a stone pound as a place for safe keeping of cattle that were unable to discriminate between *mine* and *thine* in the use of property; up to that time it had been customary to drive all trespassing cattle out of town, only working oxen and milking cows were considered a kind of aristocracy and excepted from the process of outlawry by being driven beyond the borders of the town.

“Although every incorporated town had the privilege of sending a representative to General Court, this town apparently was not anxious to avail itself of this privilege until 1761 when Joshua Willard was elected to that position and reelected in 1763. In 1763 a resolve was offered that in the opinion of the voters this town was entitled to two representatives to General Court, so Jonathan Grout and Samuel Peckham were both elected to that office. The State Constitution ratified in 1780 allowed two representatives for 375 rateable polls. From the year 1761 to 1840 this town sent a representative to General Court every year except the years 1825-1826-1827.

“The first dawn of a revolutionary spirit may be traced to the year 1754 near the commencement of the war between Great Britain and France. Anticipating the fatal effects of a war between those rival

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nations, the British American Colonies sent their delegates in convention to Albany on July 4th of that year, and entered into a general league of mutual defense against the approaching struggle. By the terms of the proposed confederacy, a general government was formed in many respects similar to the one subsequently formed as the basis of the government of the United States previous to the adoption of the Federal Constitution. It provided for a President General appointed by the crown and a grand council elected by representatives of the colonies, these authorities to have the power to levy and pay troops for the protection of our coast and commerce. This project was far from being agreeable to the British government, and the settlement with France in 1763 resulted in England acquiring the French Colonies in America at such an enormous expense, that to relieve her embarrassment in this large addition to her public debt, she invoked the sugar, tea, coffee, wines, and stamp acts arousing a disaffection and resistance among the colonists, which became beyond control."

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"The war of the revolution, although commenced and prosecuted on justifiable, and even patriotic and praiseworthy principles was, nevertheless, an act of insurrection and rebellion. At its commencement and even at the time when the colonies claimed to be exempt from their allegiance to the mother country they were destitute of all means of enforcing their claims as an independent nation, except with muscular strength and stout hearts. The colonies were united by a confederacy for mutual protection and the government, if it may be called one, was administered by representatives of the colonies or dependent states under the name of the Continental Congress.

"Although each state contributed liberally, according to its means toward the great and increasing expenses of supporting the common cause, and although the towns in their municipal capacity almost bankrupt themselves in furnishing men to fill the ranks of the army and in providing articles of clothing and rations for the soldiers, yet the continental government was subjected to enormous expenses in erecting fortifications, providing munitions of war and in maintaining and supporting the troops who were exclusively under the control of



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the Continental Congress. Wholly destitute of funds to meet those expenses, congress resorted to paper currency, under the domination of continental bills, for the redemption of which the faith of the government was solemnly pledged; subsequent events show with what fidelity that pledge was redeemed.

"The first emission of continental bills was made soon after the Fourth of July 1776. They were universally received at their nominal value by all friends of liberty and the rights of man. At first the amount thrown into circulation was small, but as the war progressed and new demands arose, new emissions were made from time to time, till millions and millions had made their way from the exchequer of congress to the pockets of the people. These bills maintained their credit as specie till the first of February 1777, when a trifling depreciation took place. They continued gradually to lose their character as money to the first of January 1778, when one Spanish milled dollar was worth  $4\frac{1}{2}$  of continental bills. On the first of January 1779, the value was as one to  $9\frac{1}{2}$ , and on January 1st, 1780, one silver dollar was equal to  $32\frac{1}{2}$  of bills. I have no means of ascertaining the regular depreciation of continental bills but I think we are safe in presuming that in Sept. of 1780 when the vote was passed in town meeting granting the enormous sum of \$53,000 to pay the soldiers, the intrinsic value of continental bills was about on a par with counterfeit bank bills of the present day.

The soldier who fought the battles of his country who suffered the extremes of heat and cold, of hunger and thirst, who poured out his blood like water in his country's cause received his wages in this worthless trash at the rate of forty shillings a month. 'Tis said, 'Necessity knows no law human or divine'. By this law, and, and this law alone, could the Continental Congress hope to be acquitted of charge of fraud, most gross and aggravated in its character. The town continued to bear its full proportion in sending required recruits and supplying beef and clothing for the army. Various projects were adopted to meet these demands of the government. At one time it was proposed to adopt the mode, heretofore practised, in procuring the support of town paupers, to take the lowest bidder. At

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another time the town was divided into ten classes, and each class was holden to furnish one man for the army as often as the requisition should be made. This latter mode was adopted in 1781 and was continued to the close of the war.

"In looking over the records of the town during the eventful period of the Revolutionary War, I have been led to admire the stern and determined spirit of the people, spread upon every page, by which they were enabled to endure without murmuring or faltering, the grievous burdens imposed upon them.

"Nothing but a high and exalted sense of public duty and certain anticipation of finally obtaining what they held more precious than life itself, the independence of their country, could have enabled them to hold on their course to a final and glorious triumph in the establishment of liberal principles and a free government.

"The subversion of the colonial government necessarily followed the revolutionary struggle, and the people were left in a state of nature without a constitution and without laws except the law of public opinion.

"There was however a show of government preserved, consisting of a House of Representatives called the General Assembly and a council corresponding with the present Senate. Many inconveniences resulted from this unsettled state of affairs. A frame of state government had been prepared by the General Assembly in February 28, 1778 and sent out to the people for their final disposition; it was a crude and undigested system and was rejected by an overwhelming majority. This town rejected it unanimously. There were times of doubt and uncertainty when the aspect of public affairs was most threatening and alarming, and civil government tottered upon the brink of ruin. Such was the state of affairs when the alarming insurrection and rebellion under the leadership of Daniel Shays convulsed the commonwealth from one extremity to the other, and the spirit of disaffection pervaded all classes of men. Many in this town favored the cause of Daniel Shays and were found in his army from the most honest, pure, and conscientious motives, and in town meeting held November 9, 1786, special instructions to their represent-

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ative were voted. He was instructed to use his influence in the following resolves;

'1. The General Court be removed from the town of Boston as tending to lessen expense and prevent delay in business, as one necessary means of restoring that confidence of the people in the Legislature, which we conceive as absolutely necessary toward establishing peace, order and good Government.

'2. That an alteration be made in the present mode of taxation.

'3. That all unappropriated lands belonging to the Commonwealth be sold as soon as may be for the purpose of paying government securities.

'4. That should it be thought necessary to issue a paper currency, the sum be as small, the time of payment as short, and the foundation or credit as permanent as circumstances would admit.

'5. That a revision and enquiry be made into the fees and salaries of all public officers.

'6. That no public grants of money or pensions be made except when justice absolutely demands it. The Courts of Sessions be abolished and also the Court of Common Pleas, if any other judicial tribunal could be devised, less expensive. That the Clerks of Courts have a reasonable annual salary assigned them.

'7. That the State Treasurer be directed to publish annually an exact account of all public monies, by him received and how the same is appropriated.

'8. That a bill against unlawful usury, proposed and failed in a former session be brought forward again and enacted into a law.'

The town further resolved, "That at a time when the people of this commonwealth ought to use greatest economy and frugality some laws of the sumptuary kind will be necessary, and such as will have a tendency to promote our own manufacturers and prevent foreign luxuries. While the Government troops were opposing the insurgents, the Legislature set themselves about devising means for the relief of the people from those burdens of which there was universal complaint, by which it was anticipated a large part of the state debt could be paid without resort to direct taxation.

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“By the statute of November 9th, 1786, it was enacted that a lottery be granted for the sale of fifty townships of land in the county of Lincoln, now Maine, each of the contents of six miles square. The scheme contained 2720 tickets of sixty pounds each, by which \$163,200 were put into the State Treasury without resorting to the odious mode of direct taxation. This was the commencement of that splendid system of legalized gambling, which till recently has been liberally encouraged by our State Legislature and which has operated so disastrously in innumerable instances in prostrating the fairest prospects in life of most of its unwary votaries. Happily for the country, public attention has been awakened to the demoralizing principles of lotteries and by legislative enactments they have been suppressed in many states in the Union.”

### *CHARLES K. WILDER WROTE OF THE INDUSTRIES IN PETERSHAM IN 1855:—*

There was one hotel, the New “Nichewaug” built in 1850, and kept by Jesse Brown, later of Athol. It had been built by the late J. D. Foster of Boston to replace the old tavern destroyed by the big fire of April 15th 1847, and was itself destroyed Dec. 8th 1897.

There were two stores, one kept by Wetherell and Mudge on the west side of the Common. Mr. Wetherell was a highly respected citizen, and was a faithful and efficient post master for many years.

Jonas Carruth kept a grocery store under the old Baptist Church.

There were two tanneries in successful operation, one in the east part of the town owned by Artemas Bryant, and one in the north part owned by Asa Clark.

There were two grist mills, one owned by Capt. Joseph Brown about a mile east of the Common, with a saw mill, both of which were burned several years ago: the other grist and saw mill is located at the “Factory Village” later known as Nichewaug village, and continued doing a thrifty business until very recently, David Parlin being the last owner.

There were ten water saw mills, Brown’s, Moulton’s, Williams’,



George Ayers' Sawmill, on the Camel's Hump Road, 1883.



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Wilder's, near the Butler bridge, two others near the Carter site, Parlin's, Ayer's, Clark's on Sputtermill Brook, one in the North part of the Town.

There was a steam saw mill at what is known as Tom's Swamp, built and owned by the late Constant Southworth of Hardwick. Later it was converted into a keg shop and was removed probably as early as 1880.

There was a hat pressing factory in the south part of the town owned by Jesse Rogers, who also had a bleachery for whitening palm leaf, where John A. Carter recently manufactured boxes.

Palmleaf splitting was carried on by Adin Tolman in the house, recently the residence of James H. Gafney, now removed. There was a steam mill just west of the Common owned by the late P. W. Barr, where large quantities of palmleaf hats were pressed: later it was converted into a tannery by the late Alfred Peckham; destroyed by fire, and its site is the one occupied by the store of Daniel Broderick.

There was a ladder factory just west of the Common, owned and operated by the late Paul Peckham, also a tin shop on East street owned by the late Collins Andrews.

There were seven blacksmith shops in town—all but one being operated by farmers; Col. Josiah White, easterly part of town; Col. George White, Center; Lewis and Oliver Whitney, brothers, on Oliver St.; Dea. Hubbard Peckham, westerly part of town; William Clark at the late William Clem place; Marshall Twitchell, East St.; and Zuri Stone opposite Mrs. J. J. Higginson's.

The physicians were Dr. William Parkhurst and Dr. Samuel Taylor.

Jared Weed was Justice of the Peace and Cephas Willard Deputy Sheriff.

There were four boot and shoe makers, Phineas Brooks, Humphrey Farrar, Lorenzo West and Emory Goddard; also two butchers, Lot Dennis and Lysander Blodgett.

Two brothers Joab and Levi Young were stone cutters in the east part of the town and Daniel Robinson in the west part.

George Bosworth on South Main St., carriage maker; Daniel God-

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dard in the Center, wheelwright; Chauncey Hapgood, 1st East, Israel Houghton 2nd, East, were both wheelwrights. Artemas Brigham, extreme east was a cooper.

Joseph G. and Horatio Parmenter, brothers were carpenters, in the Center.

Charles Wheeler, Harrison Williams and David Wheeler were painters, as was also Mason Johnson.

Luther Benjamin was a millwright. A tailor, Richard Comerford, did business on East St., and Miss Mary Ann Howe, a tailoress, went from house to house making men's and boys' clothing. A woman of strong personal traits and quite remarkable in her way.

Most of the women and children were occupied by braiding hats and seating chairs.

At Gale's Corner in the north west part of town there was a manufactory of lightning rods by John Gale, the shop was situated on the south east corner opposite the large old fashioned house belonging to the Gale family. They also manufactured ox balls at the foot of the hill west of their house.

Lucius Spooner, son of Capt. Clapp, grandson of Philip planted his homestead in the south east part of the town on Swift River near Connor's Pond, built a trip-hammer and led off in the manufacture of hay forks, that were so light, and well designed that it was a pleasure for the hay maker to use them.

A cheese factory was established in town during the 1860's located on the site now occupied by the house of Louis Nelson. It was in operation as such about twelve years. Principal promoters were David C. Paige, Hiram Gibbs, Charles Brewer, Lewis Sanderson. It was used for a short time for a skating rink, then bought by Zina Blackmer and moved whole, by means of two horses and rolls in the fall of 1884 to a point west of Unitarian Church opposite West Road Inn. It was occupied there by H. D. Cook's Cash Grocery Store, and two tenements were finished in the upper part. After Mr. Blackmer's death it was purchased by Mr. William Simes who moved it to its present location on West St. and finally sold it to Daniel Broderick who is proprietor of the grocery store there and an extensive grain and



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coal business at his residence on Spring St.

Germain Legare a Frenchman who came to Massachusetts in 1848, was a pail maker and trapper. He enlisted in 1861 and was discharged in 1865. It was said of him by Dr. James Oliver, who was a surgeon of the 21st regiment, that Mr. Legare was company cook and while the regiment marched from Kentucky to Knoxville, Tenn., he wheeled the camp kettles all the way in a wheel barrow, over 200 miles. He was always cheerful and jolly, the life of the company. After his return he engaged in the wood turning business. He was very successful in this, importing many foreign woods as well as producing many beautiful articles from our native woods. He first occupied a shop near the Butler Bridge, then for a time had a bench in Webb's keg factory, then built a small shop of his own opposite his residence in Nichewaug Village. He sold the business to the Rev. Charles S. Nightingale who was very successful with it also, but the industry ceased when he moved from town about 1916.

In the Fall of 1863 Elisha Webb moved to the south part of the town and became an active citizen, engaged in the lumber business and manufacture of powder kegs. His beautiful Percheron horses and big blue rack wagon, which he built to carry exactly 576 kegs to Athol Depot are well remembered. He left town in 1895 since which time John A. Carter has carried on the lumber business there making a specialty of wooden boxes. In Dec. 1923 the shop was burned, the last of its kind in town.

Charles E. Buell and Joseph C. Smith continued in the lumber business with portable steam mills.

The palm leaf business has flourished in town since about 1820 when Ruel Farrar, took a hat of that material imported from France, unbraided it, became familiar with its construction, procured leaf, split and prepared it, instructed a few people in the mysteries of braiding and a great industry was commenced. For many years the farmer's wives and daughters braided men's hats, but within the past forty years we remember Miss Julia Ayers, Mrs. Capt. Brown and her sister Asenath Williams as braiding especially fine and beautiful boxes, and Mrs. DeWitt Williams as making a specialty of fine

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ladies' hats. Mrs. Edward Shattuck braided many novelties which are still on sale at the Petersham Exchange.

Of the present day, probably Miss Cora Stratton is the busiest braider of palm leaf in town, and a former resident Mary E. Prouty of Springfield also knows this craft, as do Mrs. Susie Legare and Mrs. Ella Cobb.

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After the Revolutionary War, there sprang up a business centre with a church, tavern, blacksmith shop, tannery, potash factory, cider brandy distillery, and several dwellings, drawing trade from the townships of Hardwick, Greenwich, and Petersham, though several miles from the centers of these towns, and situated on the site of the present Common at Dana Centre. This seemed to be more accessible than the centers of the three towns previously mentioned, and it was decided to create a new township. Therefore, on June 9, 1798 we find these names of our Petersham townsmen on a petition to the Great and General Court to be set off to the new township of Dana: Thomas Amsden, Nathan Smith, Noah Doane, John Partridge, Solomon Woodward, and Wm. Bancroft. On the 18th of Feb. 1801, the Act of Incorporation was signed by Gov. Caleb Cushing, and on the 17th day of March following, Daniel Bigelow, Esq. of Petersham, under authority vested in him by the Great and General Court, warned the residents of the new town to meet in the Baptist Church to transact the necessary business that might properly come before the meeting. In 1839 another slice was taken from our town to be annexed to Dana, when Silas Flagg, Thomas Aldrich, Zemira Shumway, Wm. Smith and George Hatstat petitioned to have their lands set off to that town.

It is interesting to note the business changes in the centre of the town of Petersham. In the early 1780's William and Nathaniel McCarthy, sons of Rev. Thaddeus McCarthy of the South Church in Worcester, came to our town and built the Bosworth house at the corner of South Main and Oliver Streets, with a store on the opposite side of Oliver Street. In 1815 they sold this property to James Ripley who continued the store business nine years when it was sold to John and Ruth Wetherell who kept it a year and sold it to Constant Brown who continued it. Their son, Samson Wetherell who was born in 1795, first came to Petersham to work in the store attached to the house now owned by William Barnes; then he formed a partnership with Constant Brown, occupying half of the dwelling-house. In 1834 George Bosworth bought the property and Samson Wetherell

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built the house at the top of the hill now owned by Mrs. Howard Day, using the house that stood between it and the street for a store, later moving it to the west side of his house where it stands today as the property of Miss Amey Willson.

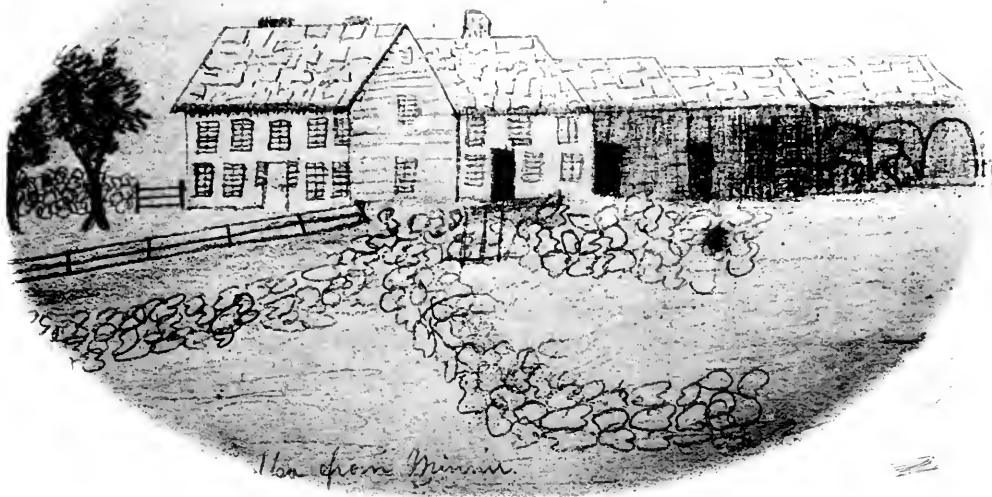
In 1840 Samson Wetherell and his brother-in-law, Benj. F. Hamilton, built the store at the corner of East Street, continuing there only a few years, under the firm names of Wetherell and Hamilton; Wetherell, Hawes and Field; and about 1855 we find Wetherell and Mudge located on the west side of the Common near the site of the present Library building. In the late 1860's the corner store was opened again by Eugene Tolman; Joshua Tolman, H. Nelson Tower, and in 1882 Charles F. Paige owned it; in 1884 Paige and Tower; Longley and Trask; Samuel Andrews; in 1889 Elmer Johnson; in the late 90's R. M. and C. H. Glasheen; in 1898 Charles A. Fobes; in 1904 Fobes and Osgood; Chas. E. Osgood 1905 to 1929; since Oct. 1st, 1929 Henry I. Goodsell, from Fairfax, Vt.

In 1817 Jonas Howe opened a store on the north side of his house with Ruel Farrar as partner and a few years later, Cyrus and Welcome Wadsworth, was the firm name of the store near the Library building. In 1842 Jonas How sold the plot of land for the new Unitarian Church and the Howe and Farrar Store was moved to the south side of West Street, later known as the Red House, belonging to the Simes property.

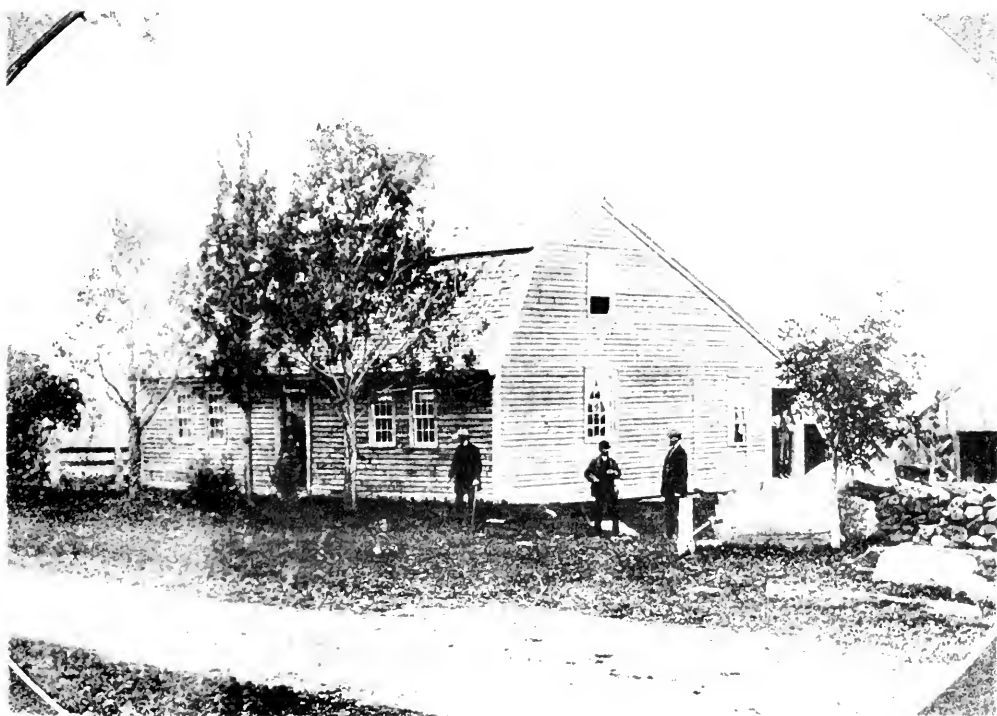
We can hardly imagine the town in 1840 with a population of 1,775, but it was during this time from 1830 to 1845 that most of the houses around our Common were built, also, the button factory, and Phineas Barr's cabinet shop.

When heavy snow storms blanketed the town, the farmers at the extreme edges attached all the oxen and young steers they possessed to a sled loaded with wood and started for the village, reinforced on the way by other oxen and drivers, until sometimes there were as many as forty pairs drawing the sled of wood when they reached the village. Thus a good road was opened for sleighs.

Mr. Howe records that in the 1830's the town was visited by a circus and, as there were no adequate accomodations for the great



Built by Jacob Wheeler about 1760.  
Dr. John Flint died here of spotted fever February 27, 1810.



"The Wayside Farm" built by Nathaniel Sanderson, 1843. 1743  
Owned by Joseph Farrar; razed 1868.



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white elephant, "Siam", he was quartered under the "Liberty Elm" at the north end of the Common.

Of the physicians in town, we find that Dr. Ephraim Whitney was here as early as 1761 as he purchased land then. He was followed by Dr. Richard P. Bridge, a skillful physician who had almost the entire practice of the town until his death in 1797, at the age of forty. A Dr. Beckwith practiced medicine in the southwest part of the town from 1790 to 1800. Dr. John Flint, son of Dr. Edward Flint of Shrewsbury, came to town about 1801 and took a high rank in his profession; he died, greatly lamented, in Feb. 1810 at the age of thirty-two, a victim of "spotted fever". He was succeeded by his nephew, Joseph Henshaw Flint of Leicester, who later removed to Northampton. In 1816 Dr. Wm. Parkhurst came; practicing here until his death in 1860. Dr. Samuel Taylor came in 1842 and spent the rest of his life here.

In connection with the Lyceum, Rev. John J. Putnam refers to Dr. Leander Harding as one of the able speakers, but he may not have stayed in town long.

During the period of 1820 to 1850, designated by VanWyck Brooks, as "The Flowering of New England," when its cultural peak was reached, we find that our little town did its bit in the advance to higher standards. The nine pillared buildings around the center were erected by the Parmenter Brothers, Joseph and Horatio, who also erected most of the cottages on West Street.

Micajah Reed, a prominent manufacturer, moved from town in 1835, but his son, Samuel G., a native of this town, and father of the late Mrs. Georgianna Perkins, became one of the foremost promoters of the Clipper Ship business. His record of ninety-one days' passage from Boston around Cape Horn, to California, returning with a one hundred thousand dollar cargo of gold, etc., was among the best.

Of the pillared buildings, the first was erected in 1835 by Samson Wetherell at the south end of the common, the same year that Aaron Brooks built the house on the west side of the common for Rev. George R. Noyes. In 1838 Benjamin F. Hamilton built his house, and two years later his store, on the corner of East Street, and about

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this time Christopher Williams had his store built opposite the tavern. In 1841 and 1842 Seth Hapgood and Dr. Taylor had their beautiful residences built by the Parmenter Brothers. The new Unitarian Church was built about the same time. In 1850 the Town House was built on a slightly different plan, having only the two pillars in the center, the spiral stairways, entrances at both ends.

About 1840 the State Legislature voted to revoke the law providing the Town's supervision of its Church business, affecting this town considerably. The faith of the Town Church had become Unitarian in 1819, and the Calvinists had already built their own church. The time had come when the Town, and the Unitarian Parish must settle their claims and become independent of each other, resulting in: 1st. The Unitarians buying a plot of land and building their own church, in 1842. 2nd, The Town moving it's Church building from the center of the village green to the east side, fitting it up for a school and Town offices, with a great public hall above, and a paint shop in the basement. 3rd, The funds that had been bequeathed to the Town for Church purposes were given to the Unitarian Parish with the consent of the General Court, and it is interesting to note that the Parish held its first Levee in 1842 as a stroke toward independent living, and it has been continued annually to the present.

The account of the centennial celebration on July 4th, 1854 has been splendidly recorded both in newspaper articles, and as an appendage to the printed address delivered by Rev. Edmund B. Willson which furnishes the most reliable source, outside town records, of historic events to that date. A few personal recollections have been related to us by the small boys of the 1850's who were impressed by a different phase of the great celebration than those recorded by their elders. Frank Bosworth, swinging on his front gate, was thrilled by the procession as it rounded the corner of Spring Street into Main headed by a group of "Minute Men" with Giles Shattuck's fife and drum corps dispensing martial music. Albert Brock, aged seven, remembers the stacks and stacks of pies, that had been in the making for several days previous by all the good housewives of the town and, the weather turning hot, the surplus was urged upon the ever hungry



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youngsters. "Some of 'em was kinder sour," he said, "but we et 'em." No record of the exact reading of the thermometer has been revealed but the heat was considered record breaking, causing the death of one horse in the horse sheds. When the crowd was disbanded, none of the horses were urged out of a walk for that reason. On North Street alone, the solid line of teams extended from the Common far into Petersham Street beyond the Waldo place. The business element of the town has been ably covered by Chas. K. Wilder in his "Petersham Sketches" and by the map published in 1855.

The 1860's were ushered in with the horrible realities of civil war involving the services of one hundred and seventy-seven men and a total cost of \$14,000 carried by this town. The detailed record of Petersham's part in this conflict has been preserved by Mr. Wilder also and by the State Department of Mass., a record of which is in every State library.

Early in the 60's occurred the deaths of both physicians, Dr. Wm. Parkhurst and Dr. Samuel Taylor, who had practiced in town for many years. They were followed by Dr. Eben Jackson and Dr. Frank A. Wood. The general store and post office were moved to the west side of the Common into the building that had been built for the Methodist Chapel, its firm name being Wetherell and Mudge, with Samson Wetherell continuing as postmaster. The building at the corner of East Street that had been built by Wetherell and Hamilton in 1840 was used for palm leaf business and the manufacture of Shaker Hoods by Charles Gates. About 1865, David C. Paige headed a corporation for the manufacture of cheese and a large building for that purpose was erected on the site now occupied by the home of Louis I. Nelson. It did a thriving business for about six years, was closed for a year, then reopened for the year 1873, which was its last in the cheese business. In 1866 the town voted to abolish the school district system by which each district was responsible for its own government.

During the early part of the 1870's, we find Dr. Loring active in town affairs as well as taking care of the health of the townspeople, until May 1875, when Dr. Luther O. Martin assumed those duties.

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James Brooks had repurchased his ancestral home, putting fresh vigor into Petersham's summer colony, with the descendants of Rev. Luther Willson, and Dr. John Flint eager to enjoy the advantages and beauties of this hill town. On July 4th, 1875 occurred the Frost murder that so stirred the whole country as well as our quiet little town, it occurred two miles south of the village at the junction of the Hardwick and Dana roads. Samuel J. Frost was the last man hanged in Worcester County, the date of the hanging being May 26th 1876. The rope used, is preserved by the Worcester County Jail. On April 15th, 1875 the Peterham Grange was organized and has enjoyed a continuous and prosperous existence all through the years to the present day.

On July 4, 1876, the town celebrated the centennial anniversary in a bower on the Common with toasts, music, and reminiscences, by a large gathering of townfolk.

The Highland Institute was in full swing under the management of Rev. John Shepardson and Willard Leonard from 1867 to 1874. In the fall of 1879 the town first used the upper room in the Brick Building on the Common for a high school. In 1878, the citizens organized the Village Improvement Society and during the first year of its existence a thousand dollars was guaranteed for a public library. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Rev. Lyman Clark the village green and streets were improved, and many trees planted. About this time Forester Goddard did much to beautify the corner of the Barre and Hardwick roads near his house by ditching, smoothing the land surface, laying the walk of flat stones, setting the elm trees which he transplanted in the winter with the dirt frozen around the roots, having brought them from the south bank of Swift River near the Glen Drive.

The stage drivers in the '70's over the Athol and Barre routes were Sam Marsh and Lyman D. Edwards. Julius Ashburg, with his van of dry goods and notions was a familiar traveler, as was also Isaac Brock with his tin cart, a merry soul, resembling a modern "Good St. Nick". Many sales were helped along by his irresistible good humor, selling his clothespins at eight cents per dozen, three dozen for a

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quarter! With his merry good laughter he added, "And the dear ladies take a quarter's worth every time".

The 1880's were ushered in with a very severe winter and an epidemic of scarlet fever, with no quarantine laws, no nurses, no telephones, but with a very efficient and busy doctor who carried upon his shoulders the responsibility of saving the lives of most of the school children and some of the elders, unfortunate enough to have the dread disease. Truly Dr. Martin proved his worth and skill, as few men have the opportunity to do, during the fifteen years of his stay in town. George Gibbs was driving the stage to Athol and Walter Adams the stage to Barre. A large proportion of the ladies of the town were engaged in braiding fine leaf baskets of all shapes and sizes, also ladies' palm leaf hats. Although the churches had their own libraries for their Sunday Schools, a small circulating library was opened in the south room of the Brick Building, with Miss Edna Spooner and Miss Della Stone as librarians. By the death of Mrs. Ann Ingersol in 1883, her home became the property of the Unitarian Society as a parsonage. The following account of the Levee of 1880 is interesting:

"The ladies of the Unitarian Church held another of their pleasant and popular Levees on the 19th inst. with their usual accessories of picture decorations, art gallery, post office, flower booth, farmers' table, oysters, cold meat, cake, confectionery, fancy articles, dancing, music by the Athol band. There was a large attendance and a margin of \$200."

In 1883, the heirs of David C. Paige sold the cheese factory building to Zina Blackmer who transformed it into a skating rink 70 ft. by 32 ft. The new Bell School-house was built in 1886. In 1889 the new hay scales were installed. George West of Salem purchased the Silas Hildreth place on Sunset Lane, Robert Willson purchased the Capt. Joseph Brown place, and in 1886 Wm. Simes bought the Benj. Howe place on the west side of the Common, ever since which time their families have been welcome summer visitors in our town. In 1884 came Andrew P. Johnson, a Swedish cabinet maker of much ability, and for forty years he worked as contractor and builder. Late

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that same year came John F. Barnes and family from Gardner, filling a much needed place in town as landlord of the village inn. His enterprise and hospitality along with the efficiency of his good wife will long be remembered in connection with his popular May dances and Side Hunt suppers. In 1887, James J. Higginson of New York purchased the Zuri Stone place, since which time his family has held a prominent place in the summer colony.

The Petersham Brass Band was organized in 1885 under the able leadership of Frank Hinkley of Barre. A bandstand was erected between the corner store and the Petersham House. The Lyceum was in full swing and its members celebrated the centennial of the Daniel Shays incident of Feb. 4th, 1887 under the able management of Geo. H. Kelton, the principal of the High School. Besides dramatics by local talent, the town was visited by various traveling troupes including Comical Brown, Swedish Bell Ringers, Kickapoo Indians, and in the early '90's the Concerts by the musical McGibeny family of New Salem.

In remembering those quiet 1880's many things come to mind. On the Yellow Day, Sept. 6th, 1881 the nation was sorrowing over the assassination of James A. Garfield, and the town rejoicing over the birth of Alice Paige. It was an uncanny day, almost dark and stifling, with that peculiar and indescribable yellow blue light, caused by raging fires in southwestern Canada. In 1885, Zina Blackmer jacked up the cheese factory, gave it a trip to town, and settled it opposite the West Road Inn. It was placed on rolls on a five foot staging with a cable rope attached to each front corner. A horse attached to each cable was driven in a circle around a huge pulley, winding up the cable, thus keeping several men busy changing the rolls and staging as the building was moved so slowly over the road. The scholars in the "Old Brick" were vieing with each other in the number of trips atop the new cemetery wall before the school bell should ring, playing "Pump, pump, pull away", "I'm on the King's Land, the King ain't to home", romping with Ben Howe's Philo on the Common, contesting for head marks in spelling, catching mice that wandered in through the ventilators, writing compositions or learning declama-

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tions for those Friday Rhetoricals. When a horse cantered along in the night, someone on the outlying farms was ill, for no other reason than to get the doctor would tempt riders into the pitchy black night. Ten or fifteen years later the beer wagons would go through town in the cool of the night because the hot sun popped the bottles. In the fall we remember gathering sassafras root, cherry gum, or picking chestnuts out of very prickly burrs early on a frosty morning before the squirrels got them.

It was in those days of the 1880's, that the thrill of arguments in Town Meeting made such an impression. James W. Brooks had purchased the home of his childhood. His relatives and friends were showing real appreciation for the natural beauties of our town; he intended and expected to make this an ideal spot, but he found the natives could not readily grasp the advantage of these beautifying ideas. It was hard to see anything beyond the humdrum hard work and taxes. About the time of the 150th anniversary, Mr. Brooks told this story of himself. When he was four years old he was sent to the store on an errand. Artemas Crowl, one of the older men of the town was there and extracted a copper from his long leather wallet, presented it to James with the remark, "Some day, you will be either a smart man or a damned rascal". Mr. Brooks jovially added, "And after an acquaintance of seventy years, the same question seems to linger in the minds of some of the townspeople."

Being a scion of both the Brooks and Willson families, Mr. Brooks was born to be a leader, possessing firm determination, a genial kindly nature, bubbling with humor and a vision into the far distant future. There comes to mind a town meeting in the early '80's, when a question arose in regard to "desecrating the hallowed last resting place of our honored fathers". The native who took up the cudgels of combat had a determination and good intention equal to Mr. Brooks' own, but with an expression less smooth and gentle, punctuated freely with gestures of the fist, a guttural "Eh, eh", and emphatic "gud amits", that had a telling effect on the audiences. Finally Mr. Brooks said to him, "You and I were both born the same year, in this town, we have both spent a good share of our lives here, and both have the well being

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of this town at heart. The time is not far distant when you and I will be lying side by side in yonder cemetery for all Eternity. These voters know definitely what you and I both think in this matter, now let us agree to suspend these arguments, and allow them to vote on the matter." The result of the vote is forgotten and is inconsequential compared to the thrill of the argument.

We are reminded of the stalwart, six foot doctor whose wordy combats with his wife were the amusement of the town; when she was asked the reason for always having her own way, she replied, "Why shouldn't I have my own way, when I always decide first which is the right way then fight till I get it."

On March 12th, 1888 came the great blizzard unheralded by a weather prophet. That morning wheels and not sleighs were used for traveling, although at nine A. M. the storm began increasing in violence rapidly. At two P. M. the school committee closed the Centre School with the warning to the scholars not to take any chances in getting home. It was found that the roads north and west of the town were already blocked with huge drifts, the east road passable, and the South Street nearly blocked. Most of the scholars from a distance were taken care of at the Petersham House for three days while the storm was raging. On the afternoon of March 15th, George Gibbs took the sack of letters on his back and started on snow shoes for Athol, but was met at the town line by the Athol road-breakers. The snow was so deep on Petersham Common that a tunnel was made from the corner store to the Petersham House. Snow drifts completely covered the first floor windows in most houses. Farm animals suffered for lack of food and water.

Owing largely to the persistence of John G. Mudge and Francis H. Lee, the Petersham Memorial Library was erected during the year 1890. On Aug. 16th the school children of the town assembled on a staging built for that purpose, and laid the large pink quartz stone in the tower below the window with appropriate music and recitations. During the later months the children of the town individually brought their own smaller stones to be cemented into the walls or the chimney as was convenient. Captain John G. Mudge, whose first and greatest

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interest was always for the soldier boys that he had led in the Civil War, was realizing his great hope for a suitable Memorial to their services. He found a splendid ally and enthusiast in Francis Lee who gave everybody who had ever lived in Petersham an opportunity to contribute to its building. Because he attended to this matter so well, the \$16,000 cost of building was nearly all raised by contributions. Mr. Lee, an ardent antiquarian, secured valuable engravings, prints, and a chair used by John Hancock. The tiles arranged around the fireplace represent views of churches in Hingham, Newport, Quincy (where the two Adams Presidents lie buried), Haymarket Square, New Bedford, Trinity Church, Boston, and Dr. Holmes' house in Cambridge. Over the mantle is embedded a cross, six hundred years old, that was brought by Mrs. Solomon Lincoln of Boston from the Petersham church in old England. The names of the soldiers of four wars, inscribed upon Tennessee marble and encased in Southern Cypress paneling, adorn the walls of the Memorial Hall used as a reading room. Capt. Mudge did not live to see its completion, as he died suddenly in March of 1891. On the 25th of that month his funeral was held in the newly plastered, cold and damp auditorium, the only dedication the building ever had.

In the new Library Hall were held the town sociables every fortnight. A committee of three, who represented the three churches, conducted an interesting entertainment, and named the committee for the following occasion.

Early in the 90's the first telephones were installed in town, one in the store, one at Dr. Martin's, another at Elisha Webb's in Nichewaugh, where the manufacturing of wooden kegs by Mr. Webb and the extensive wood-turning establishment of Germain Legare, Levi Hicks, and Wm. A. Smith were in full swing. It was in the early 90's that a postoffice was established at Factory Village, taking the name of Nichewaugh and causing it to be looked upon as the *original* Indian village by later historians. David Parlin's mill was the last surviving grist mill and the Webb, later Carter, mill the last sawmill in town.

In 1892 was organized the Petersham Girls' Club by Miss Alice Tapley, Miss Eugenia Homer, Miss Harriet Chickering, and Mrs.

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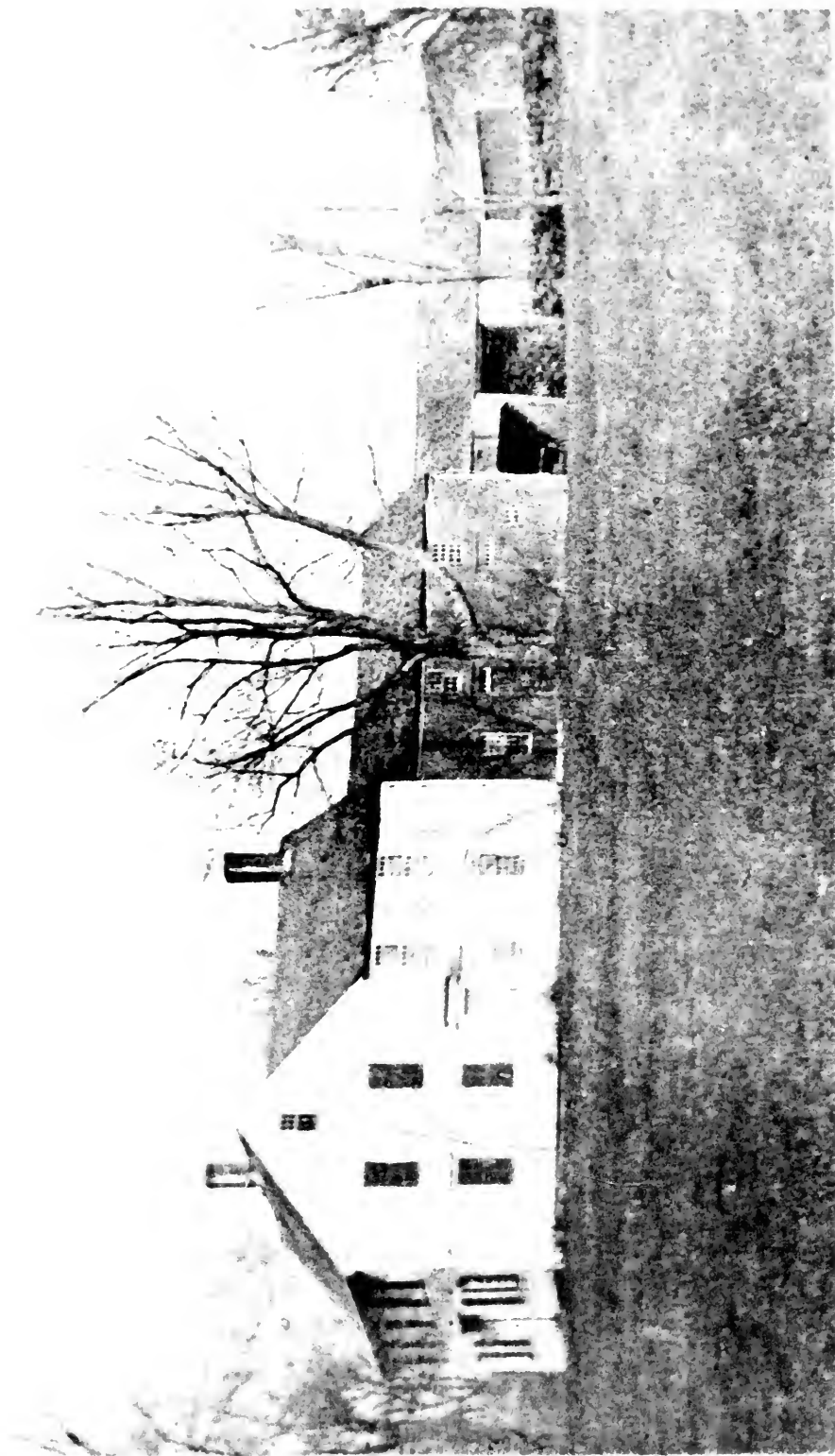
Solomon Lincoln for the purpose of instruction in sewing, nursing arousing an appreciation of town history, and primarily for raising money to buy furnishings for the new Library Hall. Its accomplishments are recorded elsewhere under "organizations."

At midnight on Aug. 27th, 1892, rang out the alarm for the great fire on the east side of the Common caused by carelessness in one of the barns. For two days previous, a violent downpour of rain had soaked everything completely, but it did not prevent the destruction of the Baptist Church, the pillared Tolman store, and the residences of Geo. Foster and Capt. Mudge. It was a wild night, long to be remembered; detailed reports by Ralph Browning Fiske and Mortimer K. Flagg being available in various scrap books. After the destructive fire of '92, the Baptist Society built their attractive church during the pastorate of J. R. Conrad, and the parsonage ten years later when Rev. Harry Chamberlain was their minister.

Just one year later, on Aug. 27th, 1893 occurred a tragedy in the lot opposite Louis Nelson's house, when three children playing under an apple tree were killed by lightning, the bolt having come, apparently, from a clear sky.

About this time the Gooding-Dexter house was built on the historic Willard place, approximately ten rods southeast of the Willard house which was razed at that time. Mr. Gooding stayed in town about ten years, but Edwin C. Dexter spent the remainder of his life here, a much respected citizen, an efficient treasurer, and councilor. About 1895, Dr. Martin left town, taking his son to Arizona in the hope of conquering tuberculosis, the disease having taken the life of his only daughter, Anna. His place was filled by Dr. Theodore Chamberlin and Dr. George L. Perry. In the spring of 1897 came the family of George R. R. Rivers to their new home on the Col. Josiah White farm; and though their stay in town was limited to a few years, they will long be remembered as the donors of the pews in the new Unitarian Church, and Mr. Rivers as the writer of the historical novel, "Capt. Shays, a Populist of 1786." On Dec. 9th, 1897, arrived in town Miss Nina Wadsworth of Cornish, Me., as teacher in the "Old Brick," and with the exception of one year she continued





The Willard Place, built by William Willard as early as 1770, followed by Cephas Willard. Later owned by Edwin C. Dexter, 1893.



## NOTES AND MEMORIES

her duties in that capacity until 1939. On the same day, Dec. 9th, 1897, the Nichewaug Hotel was mysteriously burned, to be rebuilt two years later by James W. Brooks. Rev. Robert Douthit's family came from Shelbyville, Ill., in Feb. 1898. That winter is recorded as a very severe one with six months of continuous sleighing. The train bringing the Douthit family had been snowbound for hours in N. Y. State, arriving in Athol in the small hours of the morning.

On July 4th, 1898 was celebrated the centennial of the recasting of the Paul Revere bell. John Fiske, the historian, gave an account of the Revere family to a capacity congregation.

During these years in the '90's Henry Cook's store was a much sought place for hearing how many snowstorms might be normally expected, how the foxes were running, etc. It was here, the assembled audience was treated to free "oranges" one day when a box that had been ordered proved uselessly bitter, supposedly through freezing, though otherwise sound and good. They were tasted and carried home. Thus was grapefruit introduced to Petersham. At the other store, too, things were moving. Charles Fobes had taken over the bankrupt stock and offered unheard of bargains on display. "Your choice for a few cents." Joe Stone, the village wag, said, "Now Charlie, you have it stamped right on the box, 'Boneless Cod,' how do you know it is boneless? If I take it home and find bones in it what would you say?"

Calmly and quietly, Mr. Fobes replied, "If you take that box home and have *paid for it*, no matter how many bones you find, I should say they would be yours."

The only public telephone in town was on the desk of Fobes' store unprotected by any booth, and on Sept. 9th, 1899 Miss Chadwick, the bookkeeper was late for supper. Her hostess remarked, "You are late. Have you had a busy day?"

She replied, "Busy! That store has been just packed all day. You see, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Brandeis have been celebrating their Golden Wedding today and have had many telegrams of congratulation, every one of them in German. Not knowing German, every word had to be spelled out, then a messenger found to deliver it, so

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between the curiosity to hear the message and the desire to deliver it, we have had one day. Beats all how these town folks want to hear something, even if it is all in German, they cannot understand."

One morning red-headed Mike breezed into the store with "What have you three bald-heads to say for yourselves this morning?"

Frank Gibbs remarked something about saving barber's bills. Charlie Fobes said that every time he did a good deed an angel came down from Heaven and plucked a hair from his head, but evidently he wouldn't have to do good deeds much longer for his hair was about all plucked! Mr. Dexter, with a glance at Mike's top-knot, said he had his choice of having red hair or no hair at all, and he had chosen the latter.

"Gosh, I wish I had that choice," said Mike.

In 1898 Phillip Gale sold a perfectly matched pair of Devon oxen to the "Old Homestead" theatrical company playing in Boston. It was certainly thrilling to see our Petersham oxen drawing that great load of hay across the stage to the open barn doors. There were no movies then.

The year 1899 saw a great building boom with the new Niche-waug, Clarence Fiske's new house, and repairs on many other houses. Mrs. W. W. Stewart, who had recently purchased the Solomon Lincoln place and named it Ballyshannon, had taken a deep interest in the Congregational Church and had caused the rebuilding of the interior. She also built the bandstand in 1900 for the town. Mr. Crowell had recently become resident minister, and Harry Chamberlin, descendant of the Willard family, had taken the pastorate of the Baptist Church.

In 1899, Reverend Robert C. Douthit reorganized the Petersham Brass Band. During his stay in town he was its most able leader. The band concerts during the summer on Tuesday evenings continue to be enjoyed by an enthusiastic throng of listeners. Under the leadership of Basil Coolidge, the band is still a bright spot and a source of pride to our town.

In 1901 Dr. Perry moved to Reading and Dr. W. B. T. Smith of Athol took his place here as physician, and in 1905, he was followed by

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Dr. Frederick Donaldson, who was a doctor here for twenty years.

The year 1901 saw a climax in town politics when the contest for selectmen waxed hot, and registration of voters created problems. John Anderson's citizenship papers did not arrive before the last day for registration but it was agreed to put his name on the list when the papers did come. George H. Spooner had been absent from town more than a year but had neither paid his poll tax, nor voted anywhere else, so his name was returned to the list. At a previous town meeting the vote for third selectman was a tie with Zina Blackmer and Phillip Gale as candidates; so for this subsequent election the votes of Anderson and Spooner were challenged, and the vote was again declared a tie. Town Clerk, S. B. Cook, and Chairman of Selectmen, Merrick Hildreth, were tried in court for illegal registration but as no evil intent could be proved, they were acquitted on the plea of "nolo contendere." Another election was held with the name of E. C. Dexter replacing Phillip Gale's, resulting in the election of Mr. Dexter. For a period of two years all was serene in town meeting. Then arose the question of building a new high school to replace the Brick Building which had become unsafe for school purposes. The chief argument was over the new site for the building. The voters were almost evenly divided between those favoring the Martin lot as nearer town, and the lot that was finally selected, which was given to the town by Mr. James W. Brooks. It was found that Charles Fobes who had died suddenly while on a trip to Bermuda with Mr. and Mrs. George W. Cook, had willed four thousand dollars to the town for the purpose of building a new high school. Francis Brooks had left six thousand dollars for whatever the town most needed. These two sums were put into the hands of James W. Brooks, who took the responsibility of the building. It was finished in the summer of 1906. During the following Thanksgiving recess, the change was made.

About 1900 the family of Chas. S. Waldo established a colony of their own on the south end of Mann Hill, and ever since their coming, his family has been an important part of our summer population. Not much later came the Perkins family and Mr. and Mrs. A. Prescott

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Baker. In 1908 came, also, Mrs. Josephine Dickman who, continuing along the lines of Mrs. W. W. Stewart, proved to be a real friend and benefactor in the town, always thanking people for telling her of an opportunity to help somebody. The Unitarian Church was burned in September of that year and the long discussed question of parish rooms was settled by building them into the new church. It was largely through the excellent management of Edwin C. Dexter that the funds were found to be in excess of the bills, leaving a balance of \$2,600 on hand.

In 1902 Mr. Douthit felt it necessary to assist his father, Rev. Jasper Douthit, in his work at Shelbyville, Illinois and with deep regret he was allowed to go. He was followed by Rev. Alfred Birks, who was in town during the lively time of the 150th Anniversary, the building of the new high school, and the keen agitation of building a parish house. His marriage to Miss Irene D. McManus was the last one to be solemnized in the old church, 1905. Two years later he was called to the church in Natick, and this church was again seeking candidates. Among the few candidates heard was Rev. George Browning Spurr who, on his first trip on a dismal wet Sunday in September, was invited by Mr. Brooks to dine with him at the Nichewaugh but, much as it would have been to his advantage thus to meet many of the summer colony, he reluctantly declined, feeling it would not be courteous to his hostess who was expecting him. However, two weeks later, he was free to accept the invitation and when it came time for decisions to be made, it was agreed that a man with a conscience like that was the one preferred. When he commenced house-keeping in the Parsonage he brought as its hostess, Miss Frances Young, whose early life had been spent here and who still had many friends to welcome her.

The celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the town's incorporation was observed on August 10th, 1904. The day was one of the stormiest the town ever saw, sandwiched between two of the most perfect. The Salem Cadet Band of fifty members were lodged on cots in the upper town hall the night before, and a huge tent in the rear of the Nichewaugh housed the audience during the day's program.

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Several noted people of the State were present and elaborate exercises were carried out.

During the summer of 1904, Fred Wheeler Carroll who had just graduated from dental college, opened an office in his father's house one and a half miles northwest of the village. He spent his spare moments training a four year old bay percheron colt for driving; so well did he succeed, that even by laying the reins on the dashboard, he could regulate speed by talking. "Can you trot a little." "You may walk now." "Could you trot faster?" "O faster, Grandpa, much faster." "You may stop." Without change of tone or even emphasis and with his arms folded, he very pleasantly governed "Grandpa's" gait. A year later Dr. Carroll was established in Barre, and for twenty-five years, his dental office had no terrors for even nervous and scared children.

The first automobile to stay in town was owned by Raymond King of Orange when he spent the month of July, 1903 here. Five years later July, 1908, Mrs. Jonas Brown prepared breakfast for her granddaughters who had planned to come from Westboro; then watched for them all day. Although they never came, Mrs. Brown noted the passing of eight automobiles on our Main Street! "Whatever was our world coming to, if our horses must face a menace like that!"

In 1906 came the establishment of the Harvard Forestry School; not much later, came the family of Richard T. Fisher. During the early years of the new century, Frank Kelton and Louis Legare attended to the Athol mail route and express business. Charlie Hancock and James Plunkett, driving for Charles Prouty of Barre, attended to the Barre route.

In 1910 Miss Hattie O. Sawtelle, eligible for retirement as a "Pioneer" in the telephone business, asked the privilege of managing the new exchange, established that year in Petersham with one hundred subscribers. In 1911 came Mr. and Mrs. John M. Woolsey, who have continued to maintain an active interest in the town's betterment.

The Petersham Exchange was organized in 1910 by Mrs. Herbert

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Fiske, Mrs. Dickman, and Mrs. Stewart primarily for the benefit of Petersham consigners and, with Mrs. Clara Qualey as its first manager, was located in the red Community House on West St. Through the generosity of Mrs. James J. Higginson who gave the land, and the Misses C. L. and E. H. Flint who gave the building which stood near their residence on "The Street", the present attractive "Exchange and Tea Room" has developed. It was incorporated about 1918 and through the untiring efforts of Mrs. Lawton Brooks, Miss Sallie Cochran, and an able corps of directors, proved a success and a convenient and restful spot for the many motorists who patronize it.

Early in 1912 came the tragedy which resulted upon moving the Burrage house to make room for the Catholic Church. The house had been placed on log-hewn "runners", and sixteen horses attached, successfully hauled it for more than half a mile but in descending the South St. hill it swayed and skidded until it had to be taken apart, finally crashing, endangering the lives of the workmen, although no lives were lost. The house never was rebuilt. In April 1912, the Historical Society was reorganized and has enjoyed a continued existence since. In Sept. of 1912 James W. Brooks died suddenly while at dinner at the Nichewaug, and Petersham lost its most able champion. The same month of Sept. 1912 saw the return of Rev. Robert C. Douthit as pastor of the Unitarian Church.

In the summer of 1914, the State road from Barre was finished to the Petersham Common. A colony of Italians were quartered on Oliver St. and the great rock crusher opposite Louis Nelson's house, ground many of our stone walls for the surfacing. Five years later the State road to Athol was built.

In 1915 Charles K. Wilder compiled "Petersham Sketches" combining recent biographies with those written by J. Benj. Howe in the 1880's published by the Athol Transcript. On July 4th, 1916, the plan for a "safe and sane" Fourth began with a "Coaching Parade" of considerable proportions, including decorated cars as well as horse-drawn vehicles with the first two awards given floats drawn by oxen: two pairs of Holsteins, belonging to Joseph Wildes, hauled the first prize winner, the Historical Society, and the second prize went to the



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Petersham Grange officers on a hay rick drawn by a beautiful pair of Swiss cattle owned by B. A. Lamont. Miss Brooks' car won first prize for individual cars and Mrs. Anna D. MacNutt won the second prize with the heavy festoon of white daisies and ferns that nearly concealed her roadster. Two of these prizes were set aside as the nucleus of the fund for the Historical Building.

In Feb. 1916 we had the first glimpse of the State Constabulary when, on a Sunday noon, a horseback rider sauntered leisurely through the Main Street stopping only to make his report to the Postmaster.

In 1917, the World War was causing harassing situations, along the line of provisions and diets. To possess a sack of flour and five pounds of sugar was considered unlawful hoarding. Every week witnessed heatless, meatless, and wheatless days; potatoes were scarce and high; and everybody became familiar with a long list of substitutes for wheat, meat, and sugar. The first of our boys to cross the water were Clayton Pierce with the engineers, and Severn Anderson with the heavy artillery. Others followed at various times, several of our boys, not getting beyond our training camps. Ellery Chism's death before he reached the trenches, and that of Nellie Ward, nurse, on July 12th, 1918 were the only deaths in our Petersham quota. They were memorialized by the two trees dedicated to their honor.

The Starlight Club was organized in 1917, when ten little girls made it their chief objective to brighten the lives of the aged and shut-ins, singing Christmas carols, and dispensing home-made confections, doing errands and some sewing. During this same year, the town voted to allow the Gardner Electric Light Co. to light the streets, and supply those who wished to light their homes.

In 1920, the question of erecting a memorial to the World War veterans was agitated, the suggestion being made that the town erect a fireproof Historical Building for that purpose. George W. Cook of Barre and a native of Petersham was consulted in the matter. He emphatically advised never to consider such an undertaking. "See how the libraries and other public institutions have been treated in our larger towns and cities by officials elected by dirty politics or personal greed and ambition. However small the interested group may

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be, keep the control from the ravages of town politics!" This opinion was emphatically illustrated in 1933 when it was suggested that the town recognize its bicentennial by printing its vital records of two hundred years, also a town history, at no expense and probably with some revenue to the town, an undertaking encouraged by State laws and Federal endorsement. As the result was a tie vote, a group of hostile officers dismissed the matter and the investigating committee, without even a recount!

The first airplane was sighted on Sept. 13th, 1919 and in August 1920 Mr. Levi Flag's machine alighted on Waldo's field one and a half miles north of the village, for the purpose of giving passengers ten minute trips over the village. On Nov. 21st, 1923, the world's largest dirigible, "Shenendoah", was plainly seen and heard on its flight from Worcester to Greenfield from two o'clock to three o'clock P. M.

On Nov. 28th, 1921 occurred an unusual ice-storm causing much damage in this and surrounding towns, when even an eight inch blade of grass was incased in a pound of ice. The electric cable was broken near the schoolhouse when the children were on their way home from school, endangering their lives, but fortunately no one was injured. Many of our trees were badly broken, and some died in consequence.

In 1922 Dr. Donaldson left town. After several months without a physician, Dr. Roy W. Smith came to take up his duties.

On Aug. 15th, 1923, the Alumni of the Second East School, district number five, formed an association, buying its buildings and placing on its walls tablets containing the names of its members and the names of its teachers with the years of their teaching. The pictures of John Joyce and John Leamy, also, adorn the walls and every year a reunion was held there on the Wednesday following the second Tuesday of August, until 1937.

On Aug. 31st, 1923, the Historical Society celebrated "Old Home Day", the out-standing feature being the pageant in the evening, when the largest crowd in many years assembled, estimated at twenty-five hundred people with eight hundred cars parked near the Common. In 1923, the family of Mrs. Flora Eaton of East Orange, New Jersey, came to take the house formerly owned by Charles Ea-



North Main Street after the ice storm of 1921.



Dam at Connor's Pond, looking northwest, September 27, 1938.



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ton, the Rogers' family, and Wm. B. Spooner respectively, and built by Seth Hapgood.

On Jan. 1st, 1924 the State Police sub-station was established in the barracks on Spring Street, continuing there until Aug. 1935. On April 19th, 1924, Richardson Lodge was opened to the public on the same site as the historic Peckham's Tavern, where some of the early town meetings had been held. Herbert Lamb was the pioneer in setting up the radio successfully, and on Feb. 24th, 1924 Mrs. Alice Bigelow purchased the first "DeForest" to be installed in town. Other purchases by the townspeople of expensive makes quickly followed.

On July 14th, 1926 the Historical Building was dedicated with appropriate exercises.

### TEMPORARY BY-LAW

#### *Establishing Certain Building Districts*

SECTION 1. The Town of Petersham is hereby divided into districts to be known respectively as non-resident districts and residence districts, as follows;

Non-residence districts shall comprise all lands which at the time this by-law becomes effective are used for any business or industry other than farming, truck gardening, the growing of trees, shrubs, vines or plants, the raising of animals or the conduct of a boarding or lodging house.

Residence districts shall comprise all areas not included in non-residence districts.

SECTION 2. Except as hereinafter provided, no parcel of land lying in any residence district and not at the time this by-law becomes effective devoted to any business or industry, other than those specified in Section 1, shall hereafter be used for any business or industry, or for any purpose except for residences or purposes of building appurtenant thereto, or for churches, schools and similar non-commercial or non-industrial buildings, and no permit shall be issued for the erection, alteration or conversion of any building for or to any

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such prohibited use upon any such parcel.

SECTION 3. A permit may be issued for the erection in any residence district of a building for the purpose of any business or industry or for the alteration or conversion of a building in such district for or to such purposes, if the selectmen shall after public hearing so order; provided that there be filed with the application for such permit consents thereto signed and acknowledged by three-fourths of the owners or legal representatives of the owners of all lands used for the purposes for which said district is restricted as provided in Section 1 including vacant lands, which are not further from the land in question than five hundred feet, and also three-fourth of the owners or legal representatives of the owners of all lands within five hundred feet on both sides of the land in question and fronting on both sides of the same street, streets or ways.

SECTION 4. No permit shall be granted under the foregoing section except after a public hearing before the selectmen. Notice of said hearing shall be given by publication of the time and place thereof in a local newspaper not less than two weeks before said hearing, the expense of such publication to be borne by the petitioner. After such hearing the selectmen shall render a decision in writing, stating the decision and the reasons therefor, and file the decision with the town clerk and send a copy thereof to the applicant.

SECTION 5. All by-laws and parts of by-laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

In March 1927, the town passed the above Zoning Law, and accepted the gift of the Misses C. L. and E. H. Flint of the Flint Memorial House for the use of the doctor. Its first occupant was Dr. Archibald McMillin who came into it early that summer. On July 4th of that year the New England Society of Brooklyn presented the granite marker to the Historical Society, commemorating the disbanding of Shays' men, Feb. 4th, 1787. Judge Harrington Putnam, a native of Shrewsbury and President of the Society, made the presentation which was ably responded to by Norman Hapgood. The same summer, the World War Memorial was placed on the Common by Mrs. Otis Fisk. In 1927, also, John B. Paine surprised the townspeople

## NOTES AND MEMORIES

by taking moving pictures of the patrons of the Post Office as they came for their morning mail, later showing them on the screen in Memorial Hall.

In 1928 Roger Putnam of Springfield built his fine summer residence here, followed soon by Dr. Roger Kinnicutt of Worcester who, also, built a fine summer residence. Both have become active in the management of our Memorial Library and other town interests.

The Silent Policeman was installed about 1930 and, though knocked down a few times, still guards the traffic at a dangerous corner. Since 1930 the Girl Scouts have been organized by Mrs. Olive Parsons, and Miss Katherine Dexter, with Mrs. Corinne Howe Babbitt as scout leader and Ruth M. Coolidge as lieutenant. The Boy Scouts, first organized by Burdett Weymouth in 1923, have had a spasmodic existence. Recently they have been reorganized by Rev. Earl Davis, and Everett Wilder.

In 1935 the hydrant connected with the well beneath the Memorial Library building was installed and the Fire Department considerably improved under the leadership of Arthur Preble.

In 1936 Rev. Frederick Griffin of Philadelphia joined the summer colony.

The building of the new highways on the east side of the Metropolitan basin have improved the town tremendously by opening to traffic eight miles of new country, and taking from the village street much of the heavy trucking. These new highways connect route 32 with the Daniel Shays Highway between Orange and New Salem.

In 1937 Wynant Hubbard presented in the Town Hall moving and sound pictures of wild life in Africa.

Announcement has been made of the legacy to the town, by the wills of the Misses Charlotte and Elizabeth Flint, of \$10,000, a trust fund, the interest of which shall be paid to a worthy and capable physician.

During the year 1939 a corporation was formed for marketing the hurricane downed timber, ably supervised by Ayers Brinzer, George Wilder, Daniel Broderick, and Harry Hackett.

The Federal Department of Agriculture created three Forestry

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

Camps within the town, manned by college graduates in forestry courses, and the C. C. C. boys. These camps were located as follows: No. 15 on Moccasin Brook; No. 16 on the Monson Turnpike; and No. 17 on the Russell Road. Crews of several hundred WPA workers were sent here from several cities, working about four months in clearing and burning slash.

*Items From the Diary Dated April 15, 1847 to December 30, 1863*

Written by JANE BRIGHAM BASSETT

(Born September 17, 1835; Died March 26, 1867)

December 1, 1847. Lysander Wilder's family moved from neighborhood.

June 19, 1848. Powder mill at Barre blown up.

June 22, 1849. This day is thought to be the hottest since 1826.

August 11, 1849. Workmen began moving the old school house.

August 18, 1849. New school house raised.

November 21, 1849. New school house dedicated in the evening.  
Cost of the building \$345.00.

April 24, 1850. Stephen Heald's factory burned (Barre).

July 17, 1850. Priest Willson visited school.

August 22, 1850. New town house raised.

December 10, 1850. Priest Willis visited school.

January 16, 1851. Fair by the Unitarian Society held in the new town hall.

February 26, 1851. Dedication Ball at Tavern.

March 6, 1851. Party at Twitchell's Tavern.

June 10, 1853. Jonas Brown returned from California.

October 22, 1853. Went to a negro lecture this evening.

April 1, 1854. Mr. Ryan moved on to the Samuel Randall's place.

April 8, 1854. Samuel Randall died aged 73 years.

February 7, 1855. Thermometer 22 degrees below zero.

August 12, 1856. Went on a Whortleberry ride with thirteen others.

August 17, 1856. Rev. Seth Saltmarsh installed as minister of



## NOTES AND MEMORIES

the Unitarian Church.

February 26, 1857. Attended Samuel Marsh's wedding party.

February 27, 1857. We kept Mr. Isaac Brock, tin pedler, over night.

May 1, 1857. Attended the "May Party" with Mary and Alma Clark, Maria Boynton, Louisa and Agnes Brigham. Ellen and Juliette Randall, Adelia Prouty, Hattie Hapgood, Marcia and Josephine and Ella Gates.

August 29, 1857. Mrs. Artemas Wilder buried.

September 10, 1857. Carrie Spooner's funeral in the church.

November 17, 1857. Mr. Sprague, Principal of High School.

April 1, 1858. Mr. Ira Prouty's family moved to the west part of the town and Jonas Brown's family moved on to the Prouty place.

April 6, 1858. Dr. Hodges' funeral.

April 12, 1858. Boynton family moved to Framingham.

January 3, 1860. William Rice died of small pox and was buried at night.

January 16, 1860. Frank Rice died of small pox.

October 2, 1862. Went to Barre to see the Volunteers start for war.

April 30, 1863. National Fast Day.

August 21, 1863. Went whortleberrying.

## RECORD OF THE REBELLION

In 1861, the records show one hundred and eighty men liable to enrollment, of this number one hundred and forty-seven honorably served in behalf of the town.

The following names were furnished by Hon. John G. Mudge for Mr. Clark's historical account:

Fifty-third Reg. M. V.—Capt. John Green Mudge, Sergeant Joseph W. Upton, Corporals, J. Ben. Howe, Joseph M. Jackson, killed at Port Hudson, June 14, 1863, Ben. W. Spooner; Privates Jonas Brown; Luther S. Benjamin; Chas. E. Ball; Frederick Bryant; Samuel A. Chamberlain; Sanford E. Chamberlain; John F. Clark; Chas. E. Cook; Horace Drury; George H. Edwards; William P. Fairbanks; Augustus S. Gates; George W. Gates; Sextus P. Goddard; Charles F. Hapgood; John F. Jennison; Dwight Lippitt; Henry H. Lindsey; William Henry Mann; Spencer T. Nye; Austin C. Parmenter; George H. Parmenter; Lyman Peters; Lewis D. Robinson; George A. Rogers; Valentine O. Rathburn; Alonzo Rathburn; John B. Stevens; Frederick L. Sanderson; James H. Stowell; Alex E. Smith; Charles B. Smith; Quincy A. Shephardson; John E. Townsend; Laureston A. Simonds; Augustus Wheeler; John A. Wilder; Charles H. Williams; Henry Rathburn; Forest Hicks; Levi C. Hicks.

Twenty-first Reg.—D. Marshall Twitchell; Germain Legare; Calvin C. Aldrich; Daniel Noonan; Samuel F. Young; George W. Young; Dwight Ripley, killed at Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 25th, 1863; John W. Clark, killed at Petersburg, Va., June 1, 1864; Calvin C. Barnes; George H. Holman; Job Lippitt; George D. Whitcomb; Lyman D. Edwards; Oliver C. Gates; Asa F. Ellis; David E. Brown; William H. Allen; Benjamin W. Crockett; George O. Cook; Henry Woods; sergeant Frank N. Peckham; Hiram Newman; Hoyt Hale; Chas. S. Brigham, died from wounds received at Antietam, Sept. 17th, 1862; Edward A. Jackson; Edward O. Murphy.

Thirty-first Reg.—Ellis P. Amsden died Sept. 25th, 1863; Jacob E. Amsden, died June 3rd, 1864; Zibina Cutler, died Aug. 9th, 1862; Leonard Stone; James Forbes, killed at Port Hudson, June 14th, 1863; George F. Newton; William Ryan; Albert W. Stevens, died April

## WAR RECORDS

8th, 1863; Chas. A. Stone, died Aug. 4th, 1863; Horace W. Pike, died June 13th, 1863; John Young.

In various other regiments of infantry, cavalry, and artillery the persons whose names follow were enrolled:—

Joseph Roe, killed at Atlanta, Ga., July 3rd, 1864; Calvin Carter; George A. Davis, killed at Balls Bluff, Oct. 21st, 1861; Jacob Nose-dale; D. M. McChester; George W. Jillson; Albert Haskins; U. P. Phinney; George D. Mason; Hiram Rathburn; Charles A. Pelkey; Eben A. Conant; D. E. Collins; T. E. Rossiter; Thomas Riley; Lieut. Elisha Eldridge; Henry B. Aldrich; Thomas E. Field; James Wilson; William M. Peckham; Sergeant George H. Holman, died Nov. 17th, 1864; Edward A. Arnold; Albert Heminway; Almond Williams; Josiah C. Whitney; Dennis C. Brown; David Ahern; Isaac Williams; George D. Whitcomb; Samuel F. Young; Winsor Gleason; Silas Richardson, died at Andersonville, Ga., Oct. 26th, 1864; James Hyde; Erastus Weeks; Seneca D. Weeks; Frank Ramsdell; Henry H. Williams; James Kelly; Edward Whiting; James W. Browning; Daniel Blackmer; David E. Howard; Chas Lamphire; James Frazier; Martin Heald; Patrick Dunn; Charles R. Englehart.

In the Navy were:—Leonard Brock; James H. Browning; James Mulligan; James Reed; John Norris.

The Rebellion Record published by the Selectmen in April 1866, records the following: "Our heroic Army has fulfilled its mission; the living have returned to their homes, its dead are the Nations richest legacy. Petersham has responded promptly to all calls upon her loyalty and patriotism. The services of her soldiers were a priceless heritage; their honor, our honor, which we should ever cherish with reverence and gratitude.

These facts are sufficient to show that the early reputation of the place which gave it for a time the name Volunteer's Town, was well sustained during the most critical period of our Country's history since the Revolution."

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

### SPANISH WAR RECORD:

Seymour J. Williams; Henry George Yonker.  
(Enlisted elsewhere.)

WORLD WAR RECORD:—April 6th, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918:—

Severn Anderson, Co. D, 102 Field Artillery.

William B. Barnes, Co. E, 3rd U. S. Eng.

Eugene W. Beebe, 8th Battalion Depot Brigade.

Ernest A. Belden, 5th Battalion Depot Brigade.

Philip Burges, 103rd Field Battalion, Signal Corps.

Ellery A. Chism, Co. E, 104th Reg. Inf. Killed in France, Feb. 10th, 1918.

George R. Dickinson, Machine Gun Div., 104th Reg. Inf.

Robert E. Phillips, 11th Cavalry Troop C. Transferred to Headquarters Army Art.

Albert Clayton Pierce, 1st Reg. Co. E, U. S. Engineers.

Howard Spooner, Co. E, 104th Reg. Inf.

Chester L. Spinney, 6th Reg. 75th Co., U. S. M. C.

Benjamin A. Mitchell, 328th Reg. Co. K, Inf.

Alson H. Goodsell, Troop A, 2nd U. S. Cavalry.

Francis Warren Whitman, 305th Reg. Field Artillery.

Harold S. Preble, 2nd Reg. Supply Troop, U. S. Cavalry.

Warren B. Towne, 76th Reg. Battery C, U. S. Cavalry.

Andrew J. Kennedy, U. S. M. C., 9th Co. 6th Reg.

Clarence Channing Harris, 11th Cav. Troop F.

Justus L. Dallow, Q. M. Corps, 307 Supply Co. Inf.

Loring B. Clark, Navy, U. S. S. San Francisco.

Bernard C. Clark, Navy, U. S. S. San Francisco.

Winfred B. Salkeld, Navy, Radio Service and Belgian Relief.

William San Souci, Navy.

Harry J. Smith, Navy

Harold E. Gibbs, 151 Depot Brigade.

James M. Brady, 36th Machine Gun Bat.

Herbert N. Lamb, Quartermaster's Dept.

## WAR RECORDS

Leo. V. Robinson, Depot Brigade.

Donald G. Fisher, 22nd Recruiting Bat.

## NURSES

Katie Ward.

Nellie J. Ward, died in France, July 12th, 1918.

The above nurses were born in Petersham, twin daughters of Leason Ward and his wife.

Carolyn Clarke of Newton, Mass., served as Nurses' Aide in France from Dec. 1917 to Jan. 1919; six months with the Children's Bureau of the Red Cross, and six months in the War Zone, in Evacuation Hospital No. 114; became a citizen of Petersham, Sept. 1921.

# ORGANIZATIONS

MOUNT ARARAT LODGE OF MASONS, with a charter dated March 8th, 1826, was in existence about three years, then united with the Mount Zion Lodge of Barre; the following are the names of members:—

Jared Weed	Wm. Clark
Dan. Hastings	Joel Hathaway
Sampson Wetherell	Artemas Bryant
Humphrey Farrar	Constant Brown
Ebenezer Lindsey	Silas Foster
Welcome Wadsworth	Aaron Brooks
Walter Sanderson	Abiather Blanchard
Rufus Flagg	William Woodward
Silas Flagg	William Rogers
Harry Taft	Levi Houghton
Ruel Farrar	William Parkhurst
Washington Howe	Peter Chamberlain
Henry Ward	Oren West
Seth Hathaway	Henry Brooks
Otis Brooks	Rev. Thomas Marshall
Olney Scott	Harrison Bancroft
Avery Clark	Benjamin Chamberlain
Elbrdige Chamberlain	Ephraim L. Marsh
Gilbert Wardin	

The following bill is interesting:—

Petersham, Oct. 8th, 1827.

Mount Ararat Lodge Dr.

to Silas Foster.

For	4 glasses Sling	.20
"	5 Suppers	1.25
"	3 Horse at Hay	.75
"	3 Half Pecks Oats	.30
"	5 Lodgings	.50
"	3 glasses Sling	.15

## ORGANIZATIONS

"	5 Breakfasts .....	1.25
"	18 quarts Oats .....	.45
"	12 Tickets, delivered to Grand Lodge .....	12.00
"	Pie and Cheese .....	1.13
"	8 dinners .....	8.00
"	3 suppers .....	.75
"	3 Lodgings .....	.30
"	2 glasses Sling .....	.10
"	3 Breakfasts .....	.75
"	18 qts oats .....	.45
"	2 Gls. Sling .....	.10
"	3 Dinners .....	.75
"	1 Ticket delivered to Revd. Thomas Marshall .....	1.00
		30.18

Among the papers of the Masonic Lodge appears an interesting account of the laying of the corner stone of Bunker Hill Monument, June 17th, 1825 by The Massachusetts Fraternity, having on that occasion, the honor of entertaining General Lafayette as guest. Solomon Willard, a native of Petersham was the architect of Bunker Hill Monument.

PETERSHAM GRANGE was organized April 15th, 1875 with thirty-eight charter members—Mr. and Mrs. Jotham Bigelow, Mr. and Mrs. Jairus Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Levi C. Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin W. Spooner, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Luther S. Benjamin, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Rickey, Mr. and Mrs. David C. Paige, Mr. and Mrs. Elijah W. McFarland, Mr. and Mrs. Merrick Houghton, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. Leander T. Hathaway, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram W. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Weatherbee, Mr. and Mrs. Sanford B. Cook, James H. Clapp, Charles F. Dudley, Daniel McFarland, Mary A. Bryant, John A. Carter.

The first officers were installed by Henry E. Rice of Barre, May 11th, 1875, in the vestry of the old Baptist Church. Since Sept. 12th

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

1876, regular literary programs in great variety have been prepared for each meeting. The meetings were held in the Church vestry until Dec. 15th, 1876, when the Grange procured the use of the upper room in the brick school house paying an annual rent of \$12.00.

On Oct. 14th, 1879, it was wanted for school purposes, so the Grange secured the large back room in the rear of Mrs. J. Tolman's tenement over the store and moved thereto. In June 1882 a lease of the old store room formerly occupied by Wetherell and Mudge was secured for hire from the owner, Miss Lottie Foster, at a rental of fifty dollars a year, the Grange to fit it up at their own expense. This hall proved convenient and satisfactory through the whole period of the lease. In the early Spring of 1887 the store and Post Office building came into the market and was offered at a moderate price. It was purchased by three members, Elisha Webb, Luther Benjamin and Dr. Luther Martin and held for the Grange until such time as it could purchase and legally hold it in a corporate capacity. The entire upper floor was fitted up with special reference to make it our Grange home with anti room, kitchen, banquet and main halls. To this new home the Grange moved in July 1887 and on Oct. 4th, 1887 it was formally dedicated and has since been the home of a very lively Grange, having a membership of one hundred and thirty. It has served as an excellent training school for its members, especially its officers, and many of our townsfolk can pleasantly remember it as the place where they learned to speak their honest convictions freely, backed by the solid principles of the Order, which charges its members to "be honest, be just, and fear not."

During its entire existence, the Grange has been a bright spot in the town's history, and promises to continue as such for many years to come.

HIGHLAND LODGE OF GOOD TEMPLARS, organized Feb. 22, 1889, in Grange Hall, with sixteen Charter Members: Henry M. Stowell, Mrs. Caroline Smith, Mary E. Prouty, Edward O. Coolidge, George Prouty, Frank Lindsey, Henry McEvoy, Mrs. Ellen M. Dyer, Stella G. Bosworth, Henry L. King, Miss Lizzie King, Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Cutler, Frank A. Hathaway, Miss Annie Pierce and



## ORGANIZATIONS

Rev. A. A. Smith.

The meetings were held in Grange Hall for a time, then in the old Baptist Church, then later in the Grange Hall again.

For about twenty years this organization was in existence then its charter was given up and the record books returned to the State Lodge.

Miss Stella G. Bosworth was the first Secretary, but Miss Cora Stratton acted in that capacity during almost its entire existence.

THE PETERSHAM GIRLS' CLUB was organized in 1891 by Miss Alice Tapley, Miss Homer and Miss Harriet Chickering for the purpose of teaching the girls to sew and take an interest in Community welfare. Many dolls were dressed and sent to Southern schools, and several of the town's poorer children were supplied with dresses, coats and underwear by these willing and nimble fingers. The Memorial Hall was then new, needing furnishings, so the Girls' Club assisted in procuring the stage scenery and the grand piano.

One of the dramatic entertainments "Rebecca's Triumph" was especially successful as was "The Garden of Singing Flowers".

Miss Chickering gave demonstrations in home nursing for the instruction of the girls. Mrs. Solomon Lincoln furnished instructive books. Mrs. Chauncy presented the Club with a huge scrap book in which the pictures of all the houses in town were to be placed, with the history of each attached.

The Club was in active existence about seven years.

THE WILLING WORKERS, was a society organized in November 1884 and was very active for about four years, purchasing scenery, silver, dishes and chairs for the town hall.

Its membership contained thirty-four names, among the officers were Kate C. Bryant, Charles A. Fobes, Martha Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Paige, Mabel Spooner, Joseph G. Stone, Stella Hapgood.

THE PETERSHAM HISTORICAL CLUB, was organized in 1898 for the purpose of preserving valuable papers, and historical data.

The principal members of the organization were James W. Brooks, Amory Bigelow, George Ayers, Robert C. Douthit, Sanford

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

B. Cook, Maria N. Ayers, Anna M. Dawes, Martha W. Brooks, Elizabeth A. Gay and about twenty others.

This society was active about five years and several valuable papers were collected. (See Petersham Historical Society.)

THE ARCADIAN CLUB, which developed into the MEN'S CLUB. Through the cheerful assistance of Mrs. Josephine Dickman, the upper room in the Brick building, was fitted for a recreation room for the boys and on March 1st, 1910 the Club began its existence. Mr. Edwin C. Dexter assisted in the furnishings also, and it proved a source of entertainment, recreation and good fellowship. The officers of long standing were: President, Chester Belden; Vice President, Thomas Barnes; Secretary, Harry E. Knowlton; Treasurer, Palmer J. Lord.

THE BOY SCOUTS:—Organized in the fall of 1922 by Burdett Weymouth, Assistant Principal in the High School, with fifteen members.

HARVARD FORESTRY SCHOOL:—In 1908, Harvard University took possession of twenty-one hundred acres of land, the gift of John S. Ames, for the purpose of studying Forestry. The central school quarters and farm are located at the former "Adoni Shomo" buildings. This department was headed by Richard T. Fisher, assisted by J. Nelson Spaeth, followed by Albert C. Cline.

THE BUSY BEE SOCIETY:—In Dec. 1899, Mrs. Edith T. Gibbs, assisted by Miss Nellie Birks, and Miss Irene McManus organized this club for the purpose of teaching the little girls sewing and mending. They held their first Fair July 10, 1901 and took \$57.84; as all the churches were represented in the club, it was voted to give each Sunday School, Baptist, Congregational, Catholic and Unitarian, \$10.00, and use the rest for sewing materials. For several years beginning in 1901, mayflowers in large quantities were sent to the Perkins Institution for the blind. Clothing was made for the Baldwinville Cottagers and money was sent to the Children in the Dudley House in Barre. In 1902 a Fund for the New School Building was started.

## ORGANIZATIONS

Following is a list of the members:

Selma Anderson	Frances Glasheen
Floy Anderson	Maud Hitchcock
Annie Brady	Mavie Knapp
Mary Brady	Irene Knapp
Maud Barnes	Josie Slusser
Ruth Barnes	Clover Smith
Margaret Barnes	Mildred Wildes
Myrtle Barnes	Bessie Wildes
Blanche Coolidge	Nellie Ward
Dorothy Coolidge	Katie Ward
Ruth Coolidge	Mattie Waugh
Alison Douthit	Annie Wheeler
Jennie Crowell	

PETERSHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY:—Capt. John Green Mudge, the much loved leader of the Civil War Veterans, returned to Petersham and spent the rest of his life here, always having the welfare of his “boys” and their families close to his heart. It was his earnest desire that a suitable memorial be erected to their honor. The realization of that wish began in Sept. 1886 when several hundred dollars were raised by a fair and other entertainments for this purpose; the following year the town added three hundred dollars.

In the Autumn of 1887, Mr. Francis H. Lee of Salem, became actively interested in raising the necessary amount. The Misses Charlotte L. and Elizabeth H. Flint, the Misses Willson, James W. Brooks, and his sister Miss Martha W. Brooks, added their efforts in this direction, until in 1889 the sum of eleven thousand dollars had been raised.

Edmund Willson, grandson of Rev'd. Luther Willson, gave his services as architect and the plan adopted was of field stone. The white stone shaded with pink, below the window in the tower, was laid by the school children with appropriate exercises.

The building was erected and so far finished inside, that the funeral of Capt. John G. Mudge was held there March 25th, 1891; the only dedication our Memorial Library ever had. Opened to the

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

public Aug. 9th, 1891.

The Library established in the Brick School house twelve years before, presided over by Miss Della Stone, Carrie Spooner and Edna Spooner as librarians, was moved to its new quarters in 1891 with Mrs. Emerson Goddard as Librarian. Mrs. Goddard acted as Librarian for about fifteen years and was succeeded by Miss Fannie Gordon Prince assisted by Mrs. Della Plunkett.

THE NICHEWAUG CAMPFIRE:—Organized in April 1916 by Mrs. Jane Donaldson, and in June of the same year secured a charter, with the following members:

Pearl Anderson	Bertha Preble
Madeline Blair	Ellen Russell
Doris Gibbs	Viola Spinney

with Miss Clover Smith as leader.

Later a Junior Campfire, under the leadership of Dorothy Coolidge was organized, and the two societies united in buying a building on East Street and furnished it, including china and silver. All this was paid for in the Summer of 1923.

PETERSHAM VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY:—In 1878, the citizens formed the Petersham Village Improvement Society. During the first year of its existence, one thousand dollars was guaranteed for the establishment of a Free Public Library; this sum was made up of five hundred dollars generously offered by Francis A. Brooks, Esq., of Boston, three hundred and fifty appropriated by the town and one hundred and fifty raised by subscription.

This Village Improvement Society under the enthusiastic leadership of Rev'd. Lyman Clark did much to beautify our Common and streets and set out many trees.

The Village Improvement Society was dormant for about thirty years until reorganized about 1915 with John M. Woolsey, President and Richard T. Fisher, Vice President; Charles E. Osgood, Treasurer and Miss Bessie Dawes, Secretary; since its reorganization the grass on the Common has been kept mown, leaves burned and contributions made for street lights and for a course of free lectures on travel and nature study.

## ORGANIZATIONS

Jan 1st, 1924, a Police Patrol Sub Station was located in the center of the town. This was discontinued in August, 1935.

The Petersham Country Club was founded by Mrs. and Mrs. Richard T. Fisher, and Mr. and Mrs. John M. Woolsey, incorporated August 28th, 1922, and formally opened July 4, 1924.

### ADONI SHOMO (THE LORD IS THERE)

By John Fiske

On one of the beautiful hills of Petersham, there dwelt a small religious community of persons who believed they were destined to escape death; not science but faith had won them to this boon.

They believed that the third person of the Trinity was incarnated in their leader or High Priest, Father Howland. This community came from Rhode Island and at the height of its prosperity numbered twenty-five or thirty men and women. Their establishment consisted of one large mansard-roofed house, with barns, sheds and an 800 acre farm. Their housekeeping was tidy and they put up applesauce, and grape juice of the best quality.

They maintained that the eighteen and a half centuries of the so-called Christian Era have really been the dispensation of John the Baptist and that the true Christian Era was ushered in by the Holy Ghost in the person of Father Howland, through believing in whom, Christians might attain Eternal life on this planet. They had their Sabbath on Saturday, and worked in the fields on Sunday, were vegetarians and ate only those vegetables that grow above ground. They raised their own sheep, spun their wool, and sold an excellent quality of yarn, dyed in a fast color indigo.

For a few years these people enjoyed their simple rural life without having their dream of immortality rudely tested. When one member became ill and died followed soon by another it was easily explained that they were unbelievers, hypocrites, pretenders, and their deaths had purified the flock: but the next one to die was Father Howland himself. On a warm summer day in 1875, his horse shied so violently, as to throw out the venerable sage against a woodpile, whereupon sundry loose logs fell upon his head and shoulders inflict-

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

ing wounds that proved fatal. Then a note of consternation mingled with the genuine mourning. It was a perplexing Providence, but their belief was not seriously shaken: their leaders claimed death had been heralded by signs and portents. One brother, while taking an afternoon nap in a rocking chair, fell forward on the floor bringing down the chair upon his back, and at that identical moment, another brother rushed in from the garden, exclaiming "I have seen with these eyes the glory of the Lord revealed". Evidently the fall of the rocking chair prefigured the fall of the woodpile and the moment of Howland's fatal injury, was the moment of his glorification.

The following sketch was prepared by Mary A. West, a member of the community:—

"In 1864 a little band of people associated themselves together for the purpose of establishing a religious and communistic home in Petersham. In 1875 an agreement was entered into by the members that the Society should become legally incorporated and adopt the name of "Adoni Shomo", which agreement went into effect, according to the statutes of Massachusetts, Jan. 1st, 1876 with the following names of original charter members: Leonard C. Fuller, Sarah J. Hervey, Caroline E. Hawkes, Asa F. Richards, Fanny Fuller, Nathan G. Briggs, Harriet Stratton, Esther Fuller, Betsey Briggs and Seth Tinkham. The faith of the organization was that of a common brotherhood, with entire consecration of all possessions, goods, labors and lives, to the services of God, whom they believed to be a spirit that must be worshipped in spirit and in truth."

From an account printed in the Springfield Republican:—

Two Worcester women, Mrs. Sarah J. Hervey and her sister Caroline E. Hawks had come to hope for a Divine revelation to them and in expectation of it had gone to a camp meeting in Groton. Entering the meeting, they heard a stranger, "talking in tongues" who proved to be the man to meet their wants, in the person of Frederick T. Howland a Quaker in good social standing from New Bedford. That day Sept. 15th, 1855 was the origin in the faith, with these three "pioneers" as they chose to call themselves. In May 1861, having been "moved by the spirit" to form an association for living together,

## ORGANIZATIONS

they settled at Fuller's at the South end of Pleasant St., Athol. In Aug. 1864 they removed to the home in Petersham. Brother Howland held the position at the head of the body until killed by a horse. The people considered him a prophet, by whom the Lord spoke to them and he led them as Moses led the Children of Israel.

Their religious belief in many respects, resembles the Adventists, but differs in the vital point that the reign of Christ is to be spiritual not personal, as the Adventists hold. The Judgment Day has already begun and in a short time at the opening of the new dispensation, the holy dead are to be raised. When a man who has received "common" salvation dies, he has no more consciousness till the resurrection; but some who are specially saved will not die. Miracles will be performed commonly. When the new dispensation begins, they are to be the 144,000 spoken of by John and are to judge the nations. They do not believe in a hypothetical heaven, somewhere in space; the Earth is not to be destroyed but changed and finally the devil is to be bound for a thousand years. They entirely denounce spiritualism saying that it is from the devil, a perfect anti-christ,

The community live chiefly on farineaceous food; they drink principally water, sometimes herb tea. No flesh is eaten because there is to be a restitution of the order of things that prevailed in the garden of Eden, and nothing that grows in the ground because the ground is cursed. No jewelry is worn, and they dress very plainly, observe the Sabbath from 6 P. M. Friday to the same hour on Saturday.

The corporate names of Adoni or Shomo is from the Hebrew for "the Lord is there" found in Ezekiel 48:35.

From the Barre Gazette, July 31st, 1896, we learn that Merrick Hildreth, George Ayers and Zina Blackmer, stated that a crisis was brought about when a man named Tinkham, was obliged to leave the home one cold day in Dec. 1893 because he was too feeble to work. He was cared for by the Board of Overseers, placed at the town farm, a demand was made on the community for his support, and it was refused. A petition was presented to the supreme court, through the attorney general, that the charter be taken away, the corporation dissolved and the property equally divided. At that time the property

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comprised about six hundred acres of land with a total valuation of \$10,000.

April 15th, 1897 the property was sold at public auction by R. L. Doane, Assignee. Othello Fay, held the mortgage, and the community was insolvent.

### THE HISTORY OF THE 4-H IN PETERSHAM

In 1931 George and Delight Gale joined the 4-H Dairy Club. Before that time there had been no interest in 4-H Club work in Petersham for several years. From this start of two members there are today twenty-eight 4-H Club members and twenty-two other persons who have been members since 1931. The number of projects has also increased to include: Dairy, Garden, Poultry, Clothing, Food, Canning and Conservation. Fourteen leaders have given or are giving their valuable assistance.

The 4-H Club planted a maple tree on the Ledgeville School Grounds on Arbor Day, 1932.

The members in Ledgeville have assisted in serving Baked Bean suppers, the earnings of which are used to buy Christmas presents for the children of Ledgeville.

In 1935 one member attended a conservation camp at Amherst. 1936 found four members attending camps; two at County Camp and two at State Camps at Amherst.

Each year fall and spring exhibits are held to which the public is invited.

Members of the Petersham clubs have taken part in many county and state judging contests.

Club members have exhibited not only at local exhibits but also at local, county and state fairs.

The fall of 1936 brought honors to the first members, George Gale was chosen State Dairy Champion and was awarded a \$60 scholarship. Delight Gale was chosen the General Home Economics Delegate to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago. Other members are starting to win various county awards, so the members do "make the best better".



## Appearance of Petersham Before 1790

Mr. E. B. Willson has given us the reminiscences of Rev. Dr. Willard of Deerfield regarding the description of houses within a mile of the meeting house. "There were no clusters of houses. From Chandler's store (present Deer Farm) on east side of the street, there were only five houses for about a mile and a half, ending at Mr. Stowells', excepting a small tenement of one room which was soon demolished and another dwelling, in which the house was united with a tannery, and was soon afterwards converted into a pottery; those houses were: Dea. Cephas Willard's; the house afterwards owned by John Chandler Jr., Ivory Holland's a little southeast of Dr. Whitney's afterwards, Thomas Hapgood's; Nathan Wheeler's, opposite Esquire Bigelow's and Robert Peckham's.

"The house belonging to Jared Weed was built in 1784 or 5 and Mr. Maccarty's house was built some years afterwards.

"In the same distance, on the west side, there were about ten houses; the bevelled-roofed house opposite the Willard house, where Col. Doolittle had lived; the one opposite to that of John Chandler Jr.; the 'tan-yard house' so called; that which was successively owned by Dr. Whitney and the Hapgoods; Esquire Bigelow's; the one on the opposite corner, in which dwelling and store or shop were combined; the old tavern house north of the Church, then called the Winslow House; that on the west side of the Common (Jonas How's); a low house at the south eastern corner of the Common belonging to Josiah Peckham; Dr. Parkhurst's and the old Mansion of the Rev'd. Mr. Whitney which gave place to the larger house built by Mr. Reed.

"From the old Stowell House to the south end of the three mile street, there were only two dwellings; one belonging to Joab Stowell and the other to Benjamin Chandler.

"Mr. Solomon Reed's house was built about the year 1788 perhaps a year or two before or after. The old Mansion of Mr. Whitney which stood three or four rods farther to the south continued in being several years after and was inhabited part of the time by Joseph Smith, a tailor, whose widow died in Northfield at the close of 1838 or 39 in her one hundred and first year.

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

“On the road leading west from the house successively owned by Samuel Peckham, Samuel Cutler, Festus Foster and Dr. Parkhurst, there was, in my early recollections, only one house for nearly or quite a mile—that of Jonathan Hunter, Martin Rice afterwards built a house about a hundred rods from Dr. Parkhurst’s.

“On the road leading from the same point easterly to the upper mill there were four houses; one owned and I believe inhabited by the Maccarty family; one by Ebenezer Winslow afterwards by Simon Whitney; one at the corner formed by the eastern road and a lane running toward the south, owned and occupied by Phillip Spooner, afterward by his grandson Clapp Spooner; and that which belonged to Ruggles Spooner about half way to the mill.

“The road leading from Ruggles Spooner’s directly to the Meeting house was not laid till near the close of the century and remained without any dwelling house upon it for twelve or fifteen years.

“On the road leading from the meeting house towards New Salem, the old house belonging to Joseph Gleason, the elder, was the third; the other two being that of Capt. Wing Spooner, and that of Dea. Amos Stone (Tower).

“On the parallel road running west from Esq. Bigelow’s (Sunset Lane) there were only two houses for more than a mile; one within about fifty rods of the street successively occupied by various tenants, and that of David Stone the elder.

“On the lane running northwesterly from Hapgood’s tan-yard there were two houses, Luther Holland’s and Capt. Ebenezer Bragg’s. These, I think were all the houses within a mile of the Church on the roads in various directions, prior to the erection of the three story house between the old tavern and the Common.”

“From my note book, authority unknown, I find the following:—

‘Appearance of Common in 1827—There was a great hotel with a long ell, for a dancing hall, and a court house; next came a small tailors house, next was the old Brooks house four stories high owned by Major Aaron Brooks and occupied by his son Aaron Brooks Jr. In the fourth story was the Masonic Hall. Next was the store of Cyrus and Welcome Wadsworth and from there the horse sheds ex-

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

tended as far as West Street. The only house now upon the Common, which was there in 1827 is the Simes house then owned by Jonas Howe.

'On the east side, there were no buildings from East Street to an old house east of Clarence Fiske's house. (Robinson or Chamberlain Place.)' "

### REMINISCENCES OF C. FREDERICK BOSWORTH LOCATION OF HOUSES AS EARLY AS 1836

The old Church that stood in the center of the Common was the most conspicuous of all. It was a very large building and a fine sample of church architecture of that day. Standing in an elevated position, surrounded by the other buildings of the Village, its importance was manifest and not to be disputed. It was the great center of the town and Society. It was originally the Town Church supported by tax payers, afterwards by pew holders and owners. As it was the only public hall in town, in it were held town meetings and other gatherings of the community. Previous to my recollection differences of opinion had caused a division of members, so a dissenting element had erected another church at the north end of the Common: between them were a few houses but the principal feature was a long line of horse-sheds occupying a place of honor and were not crowded into the back ground, arranged in single file upon west side of Common reaching from corner of West Street nearly to hotel which stood upon same location as present Nichewaug House.

The School house was situated directly east of the Church and was of an antiquated pattern; it was large for those days and square with a roof that slanted on all sides from a point in the center, with a porch upon the front. The windows were very high so the seats were arranged upon opposite sides of the room and were elevated in tiers, one above another with slanting aisles by which to ascend. As a prominent accessory to the school house was a large wood house, prominent because it stood upon the street, just north, and as near the travelled way as the main building. The grave yard was the main feature on the other side.

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Where the present Town House is located was a vacant lot or rather a stone quarry, a ragged cavity in the ledge with pools of water. After a short time a Town House was built there and the school was divided with the infant department in the Town Hall. The second story was in part arranged for a high school, in which some very good select schools were taught.

The front rooms were used for a tailors shop and a furniture establishment, the basement for a grocery store, afterwards for a carriage shop. It was burned together with the Old Church, which had been moved over in place of the ancient school house which had been moved to a flat upon East Street and transformed into a dwelling.

The Old Church had three school rooms upon the first floor with a fine hall above.

The next building to notice was a wheelwright shop standing upon the present site of the corner store at the head of what was called Frog St., named for the man that occupied the shop and made wagons; his name was John Haskins, nicknamed *John Frog* for some reason unknown to me. Later this shop was moved to a new location in the rear of the Town House, and was used as a shoe shop by Phineas Brooks, and subsequently for palm-leaf splitting, later as a dwelling owned by James H. Gafney.

Next north of this building was a blacksmith shop occupied by William Clark familiarly known as "Uncle Billy". This building was removed at the same time as the other shop and placed below it on the south side of Frog St.: it was used many years by Marshall Twitchell, Zuri Stone and Zina Blackmer, also by Collins Andrews and Marcellus Peckham as tinsmiths, finally burned in March 1884.

These two buildings were moved from Main St. to make room for the store and the residence, later occupied by George A. Gibbs. The house was built by a man from New Braintree named Benjamin Franklin Hamilton who was in partnership with Mr. Samson Wetherell for a short time.

Excepting the shops before mentioned the east side of the street was open ground as far as the Foster House, the first above the burned district which was built and occupied by Silas Foster who owned the

Old Hotel which was located on the other side of the street, directly opposite, since burned. Jones Foster, son of Silas afterwards owned the Hotel which was located where the Nichewaug now stands destroyed by a fire that swept that side of the Common April 15, 1847."

A description of the Foster House or Inn which stood on the North side of the Nichewaug Lane where it intersects North Main Street follows:—"One of these hotels, farthest north was known as the Foster House, the Inn famous in earlier times. It contained the only public hall of any size and here singing school and dancing classes were held, travelling showmen exhibited here and it was also used as a court house."

Mr. Job Lippitt remembers the Common in 1852:—

The Samson Wetherell house on the south end, as it is now, only having the main entrance on the east side instead of the north; next the house directly west of it as it is now, then owned and occupied by Phineas Brooks, then the house of Jonas How, which was rather low, and very close to the road, next to the Unitarian Church which stood fully twenty feet nearer the highway than the present building does. The next house was owned and occupied by Welcome Wadsworth, who did teaming to Boston, Wadsworth sold to Isaac Brock who lived there several years, Jarius Stone, Daniel Bigelow, John Glasheen, Mrs. Rice and Dr. Donaldson were later owners: now Flint Memorial.

Phineas W. Barr owned and lived in the next house kept as a hotel for many years, afterwards owned by Oscar Holmes, Alonzo Priest, Henry Billings, then purchased by John Barnes in Jan. 1884 since known as "Petersham House."

Frank Twitchell built the next house in 1852 but lived there only a short time, selling to Rev'd. Seth Saltmarsh. Afterward Mrs. Charles Wheeler lived there several years, finally sold to Charles F. Paige, then Levi C. Hicks.

The cellar hole of the button shop hadn't been filled and was about the same location as the present Memorial Library except that the big well was behind the shop and now the Library stands over it. There was a board fence from Frank Twitchell's house to the corner of the public road leading to the great barn in the rear of the New

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Nichewaug building that had been erected in 1850 by Jones Foster. Jesse Brown was its first landlord. The best dance hall in town was in the upper part of this hotel. A fine large barn in the rear connected with it by an open shed; there was also a good bowling alley. A board fence ran from corner of the hotel to the lane or road leading to the Spring lot. On the north side of this lane stood a house built by the Fosters (probably,) and occupied by Lot Dennis, later it was occupied by Mrs. Charles Wheeler, Joseph Carpenter, Frank Glaheen. Dr. Taylor later lived in the next house which then stood close to the street, occupied later by Dr. Wood, Loren Hale, Fred Stowell and Samuel Smith. The North Church stood thirty or more feet nearer the street.

The next, a cottage, stood on the northeast corner of the same lot, owned by Israel Houghton. Seth Hapgood bought it and moved it to its present location near the Church: the ell part of this cottage was once a part of the Nat. Chandler's store, the other part was used for a laundry at the Burrage place, and is now the dwelling house of Homer Marsh.

The old Robinson house stood on the opposite side and rather far back from the street. The law office of "A Brooks" was as it is now, then the Brooks' residence, occupied by Mrs. Brooks and four children. It was owned and occupied by Henry Miner, from 1865 to 1869.

Next south of the Brooks house was the Methodist Chapel, then the double house owned by the Fosters and rented to various families. Asa Wait had lived there before the big fire, and had a small tailor's shop on the west side of the street, nearly opposite his house. Then the Jones Foster house, with barn in the rear, a drive way between that house and Frank Parmenter's store. He lived upstairs, and in the big barn in the rear, Sim Twitchell kept a livery stable. This store of Parmenter's had been built by Christopher Williams not very long before. Running south from the east end of this store building was an old shop.

Harrison Williams owned and occupied the next building which he sold to George Foster when he (Williams) bought the Dr. Parkhurst place at the corner of South Main and Spring Street.



James W. Brooks' oxen, driven by Benjamin S. Barnes in 1890.  
The Old Nichewaug in the background.



Chauncy Hapgood's wheelwright shop; also, Col. Josiah White's blacksmith shop. Referred to by George R. R. Rivers in his novel "Captain Shays, a Populist of 1786."





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Next came the Baptist Church, with a grocery store in the basement, kept by Hiram Gibbs. Phineas Brooks had a cobbler's shop there also. Jones Foster owned the next house which was rented until John Shepardson bought it and occupied it, until he sold it to John G. Mudge. Mr. Shepardson bought the Nichewaug and opened the Highland Institute as a private school.

Hiram Gibbs owned and occupied the next house, and John Howes, the one later owned by George Gibbs.

Wetherell and Mudge were the proprietors of the corner store.

Mr. Samson Wetherell was postmaster for many years.

The town house and brick school house were located as they are now. There was an old wall on the west boundry of the cemetery which was relaid twenty or more years later by Forester Goddard.

There were no shade trees on the south end of the Common, and all the maples on the west side of the Common have been set since. The only trees were the old elms near the north end: one of them the Liberty Elm was then standing directly in front of the site of the old tavern that was burned, at the corner of the present Nichewaug Lane, north side, having still on it the irons that held the sign. A public highway ran from the Unitarian Church south past the Jonas How, Phineas Brooks and Samson Wetherell houses, close to their front steps, also a much travelled road from nearly opposite John Howes' house across the present *green* to the big barn in the rear of the Nichewaug. Both roads now obliterated.

# SCHOOLS

Sept. 25th, 1754.

At the second town meeting held after the incorporation of the town the second article to be voted upon was, "To see if the town will build a school-house", and the third article, "To see if the town will grant money for a school and how much". It was voted not to act on the second article. On the third article it was voted that ten pounds be raised for the use of a school.

May 5th, 1756.

Captain Zedekiah Stone, Daniel Miles, and Joseph Wilson were voted as a committee to divide the town into district squadrons in order to build school-houses, every squadron having the liberty to build their own proper school-house. It was voted that each squadron receive an amount of money according to its proportionate number of inhabitants.

From the town records we find the town elected, in 1791, a committee to bound the school squadrons which were thirteen in number; and a prudential committee of one for each district was elected annually to have the responsibility of hiring the teacher, disbursing the funds, caring for the school-house, and preserving harmony on all school questions arising in that neighborhood.

The school-houses erected therein served as a community center for that section of the town. Parents, children, and friends assembled here for evening sociability, spelling matches, debates, theatricals, bean suppers, or Christmas Tree celebrations.

A glance at the school reports of 1858-9 and 1862-3 may be interesting.

		Prudential	Prudential
District	Names of School	Committee in 1858	Committee in 1862
No. 1	—Center . . . . .	Joseph Wilson . . . . .	Ellis Cook
No. 2	—North or Bell . .	Elias Walker . . . . .	Henry Hodges
No. 3	—Second North . . .	J. Williams Goddard .	William Lehman
No. 4	—First East or . . .		
	Ledgeville . . . . .	Austin Brooks . . . . .	Frederick Bryant
No. 5	—Second East . . .	Kies Upton . . . . .	William Wade

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No. 6—First South . . . .	David C. Page . . . . .	Thomas Howe
No. 7—Second South or . Factory Village . . . .	T. J. Chamberlin . . . . .	Thomas Aldrich
No. 8—Second West . . . .	L. Weeks . . . . .	Dwight Mason
No. 9—First West . . . . .	Dwight Ripley . . . . .	Clark Hubbard
No. 10—North West . . . .	Rufus Johnson . . . . .	Benj. Wetherby
No. 11—North East or . . Pople Camp . . . .	William Merry . . . . .	Gilman Wyman
No. 12—South East . . . .	William H. Robinson . . . .	A. J. Carruth
No. 13—South West . . . .	Stephen D. Goddard . . . . .	J. G. Cook

### District No. 1.

The central school squadron extended one mile in each direction. The first known building was of wooden construction with a four-sided roof, and was situated on the site of the present brick building. The crude wooden benches, facing the teacher's desk and the great barrel stove, were elevated in the rear of the room above those nearer the front of the room. About 1842, this building was transported, just as it stood, down East Hill by a long line of oxen and was deposited on the south side of the road, transformed to a dwelling, and is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Smith. The old second church was moved from the center of the Common to this school site and fitted for school rooms on the ground floor. A large hall was made on the second floor, and a paint shop in the basement. It was in the shavings on the floor of this paint shop, that the fire started Feb. 5th, 1845, during a terrible wind and snow storm, destroying not only that building but the town hall next to it that had been built only ten years before. According to George S. Grosvenor, the school was kept in the basement of the Universalist Church until the present brick building was completed about 1848 and the present town hall building in 1850. Then the lower grades occupied the brick building and select or private schools were kept in the upper town hall until 1869 when John Shepardson, a Baptist minister, and Eliza Cowles opened the Highland Institute in the new hotel that had been erected in 1850 by David Jones Foster. This was a boarding school where

for \$120 per year, the following subjects were taught: Latin, English, both common and higher writing, calisthenics, Greek, French, German, both vocal and instrumental music, pencil drawing with practical and mathematical perspective, oil painting, water colors, and the making of wax flowers and fruit. During that first year the pupils listed sixty-eight ladies and thirty-seven gentlemen from the neighboring towns and as far distant as New York, New Jersey, Boston, and the Province of Quebec. This arrangement continued until the fall of 1879 when the town took over the whole brick building for schools, with the high school on the entire upper floor, the primary room on the north end, now occupied by the Post Office, and the intermediate room on the south end, where the Selectmen's office now is, the entrances being on the north and south ends of the building. The old fashioned white painted plank seats and desks were replaced in March 1884 by a modern style in the two lower rooms. In the upper room the Lyceum met on Friday evenings. Its participants included ministers, teachers, doctors, parents, and pupils. Many of our boys and girls appeared in public for the first time here with song or recitation. Among the teachers to whom the town is greatly indebted for faithful service are Mrs. Eliza Robinson, James Knapp, Hugh Molloy, George H. Kelton, Viola Haven, Anna Dawes, Harriet N. Sands, and Edith Whiting.

On April 23rd, 1891 occurred the first graduating exercises of the Petersham High School when diplomas were presented to Thomas Barnes, Margaret Elizabeth Connor, Allen Bradford Cook, Frank Andrew Hathaway, Harry Ethan Knowlton, Rilla Bell Leighton, Frank Eugene Smith, Jeanette Ruth Stone, and George Kirk Wilder.

The "Old Brick" did splendid service as a school-house, but early in the 1900's there seemed to be a general feeling that the time had come for a new one. A group of little girls who called themselves the "Busy Bees", under the leadership of Mrs. Edith T. Gibbs, held sewing meetings resulting later in a sale July 10th, 1901. The year following, an entertainment was given for the benefit of the "New School House Fund". Mr. James W. Brooks became interested and jokingly said, "It is just possible these little girls will not have to build

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that school-house alone”.

By the will of Charles A. Fobes, whose death occurred March 11th, 1905, the town received four thousand dollars, for the purpose of a new school building in memory of his mother, Elizabeth Gates Fobes. This money was added to about six thousand dollars which had been given the town by Francis A. Brooks, and James W. Brooks, who also gave \$5000, was empowered to supervise the building. Three sites were available. The Dr. Martin lot on the north side of West Street was the one nearest the Common. The second site was nearly a quarter of a mile on the south side of East Street, and the third site at the corner of Spring Street and Hardwick Road. The latter was finally selected by a majority after long and heated argument.

Edmund Willson of Providence, whose father and grandfather had been Unitarian ministers here, was chosen as architect and Frank M. Goddard, a son of the town, was given the contract as builder. The building was completed in the fall of 1906 and the change of school from the old building to the new was made during Thanksgiving recess of that year, but the building was not formally dedicated until May 22nd, 1908. When the change was made from the old building to the new, late in 1906, Agriculture was introduced as a study; as well as Domestic Science and Manual Training, and the new name, “Petersham Agricultural High School” was adopted. The study of Agriculture was dropped, Aug. 31st, 1917.

The day of the dedication was so rainy the exercises were held in the Unitarian Church, Mr. James W. Brooks presiding in his usual pleasing manner; with him seated upon the platform were President Elliott of Harvard College, President Wright of Clark University, President Kenyon Butterfield of Massachusetts Agricultural College, and Secretary Martin of the State Board of Education. All these guests spoke interestingly, and the program closed with the singing of America.

### District No. 2.

In the first north district, a building was erected in 1794. A

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plantation bell from the West Indies was placed upon it by John and Nathaniel Chandler, the latter taking it to Lancaster about thirty years later when he and his family removed to that town. The first building was replaced in 1886 and school continued to function until 1893 when it was closed. About ten years later, Charles S. Waldo purchased the building and moved it to a location north of his residence to be used as a playroom for his children.

### District No. 3.

This district was known as the Bennett Hill school district and extended to the Athol line. A brick building stood on the west side of the old road, about seventy-five rods north of the present residence of Mrs. Richard T. Fisher, until 1867 when it was taken down and a new building erected directly west of it on the altered road to Athol. There it continued as a school until 1893. In 1906 the building was purchased by George Marsh and rebuilt on the Barre Road a half mile south of the center of the town, as the residence of his son, Kenneth Marsh.

### District No. 4.

Here occurred the scene of the incident between Schoolmaster Ensign Mann and Thomas Beaman, the Tory, who considered the building to be on his premises so locked the Whig schoolmaster out (about 1775) and prosecuted Sylvanus Howe for breaking the door open and ordering the studies to continue. The land on which the present building stands was deeded by Daniel Ward in 1803 and this building was erected by Charles Gates in 1846 at a cost of \$437.97 which was raised by subscription, Artemas Bryant and Josiah White being the Building Committee. Charles Gates moved the former house to the south side of the road, east of his house and used it for his palm leaf business. In 1880 this district was combined for one term with the second east district No. 5, but school continued to function in this Ledgeville district until the end of June 1943.



Bell School, 1885.

Standing left to right: Clarence Bohanon, Stephen Stroub, George K. Wilder, Bertha Bohanon, Lottie Holt, teacher, Edith Bohanon, Bessie Ashford, Florence Butterworth, Willie Franklin, Clarence Ashford, Willie Wilder, Fordie Stroub. Front row standing: Joe Broderick. Seated: Cleo Stone, Dora Butterworth.





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### District No. 5.

The second east squadron had its first building at the corner of the Barre and Hubbardston Roads, and its second building on the east side of Narrow Lane a few rods north of the Hubbardston Road.

When the present school-house was erected, dedicated Nov. 21st, 1849, the two former buildings were attached to the house of Ira Randall on the west side and near the south end of Narrow Lane; the first building was attached to the south end of his house and was used as a store, the second building was attached to the north end of his house and was remodeled into a four room tenement. It was last owned by the Michael Keaveney family. The present building has not been used as a school since 1888 when Mary E. Burns was its last teacher. On August 15th, 1923 an association of former scholars and teachers was formed. It purchased the building from the town. Tablets have been placed on the walls. On the east side of the room are listed the names of the teachers, and on the west side the members of the association. Pictures of John Joyce and John Leamy are on the wall as founders of the association. The original plank desks are still in place, serving as the lunch table at the reunions.

### District No. 6.

The first south district had a building on the west side of the Hardwick Road about two rods north of the Junction of this road and the private lane to the Gay Farm. The building was burned in 1865 and has never been rebuilt. Pupils of this district attended the Center School or District No. 12.

### District No. 7.

The second south or Factory Village School was the scene of many happy social events as long as the population of the district was large enough to permit it. It was closed as a school in 1921 and has since been taken over by the Metropolitan Water System. Mr. Edward Bruce Hill suggested that the former building was located in Tinkertown, later known as Storrsville, before that section became a part of the town of Dana. His grandfather, Elias Hill, allowed the

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town to erect the present building on his property about 1815 or 1820.

### District No. 8.

The second west district near the town line and the railroad track of the Boston Albany branch was discontinued for school in 1870 but was reopened for one term each year to prevent the land reverting to its owner. The building soon fell to decay.

### District No. 9.

The first west school stood a few rods east of the junction of the New Salem Road and the Birch Drive. School was suspended in 1893, and reopened for one year in 1899-1900. The building was purchased in 1924 by Emory Gray to be used as his carpenter's shop.

### District No. 10.

The school was situated in the northwest section of the town on the lower Athol Road and was a part of the Jonathan Johnson homestead. It was used for a school continuously until 1898, reopened for a year in 1912, and in 1921 it was purchased by George Cobb who built it into his barn on West Street.

### District No. 11.

This included the northeast quarter of the town on the Templeton Road. It is a tradition that the first building was on the west side of Pople Camp Brook, near the residence of Asa Morse, half way between the Templeton Road and the road running parallel to it from the top of Mann Hill to the Miner or Hutchins place in Phillips-ton near the town line. The last building was near the west end of the bridge over Pople Camp Brook. The school was suspended in 1866, reopened in 1870 and closed permanently in 1878. The building fell to decay soon after this date.

### District No. 12.

There is a well founded tradition that the first building in the southeast section of the town was half way up the hill, and on the old

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stage road, between the Patrick Connor place and the William Cowen place. The second building was evidently in use in 1855 as it is on that map. It was situated at the corner of the road at the top of the hill, southeast of the Connor place where it intersects the road from Bernard Carruth's over Loring Hill to the Owen Patterson place in Barre. The last building stood on the west side of the present Barre Road about one hundred yards south of the bridge over Swift River and was discontinued as a school in 1894. Less than ten years later, it was purchased by Frank Hathaway and built into his new barn.

### District No. 13.

The southwest district had a building of the old four-sided roof type with the graduated seats on an inclined floor. It was situated on the south side of the corner of the Dugway and West Hardwick roads. This building was replaced in 1867 or 1868 by the present building on the same site. In 1882, it was discontinued as a school, although in 1890 it was reopened for a year. Then it was reverted to the land owner and finally came into the possession of B. A. Lamont who moved it a few rods south and west and remodeled it into a beautiful summer cottage. It was sold to Charles S. Coolidge in the spring of 1924 after the burning of the Joel Goddard house on the opposite side of the Hardwick Road then owned by Charles Coolidge.

The town report of 1863 gives the total number of scholars as three hundred and twenty-five. The town appropriated twelve hundred dollars for school purposes and received sixty dollars and sixty-eight cents from the State making twelve hundred and sixty dollars and sixty-eight cents for all school expenses, of which eleven hundred and sixty-four dollars was paid for teachers for the thirteen districts. These facts are interesting to compare with the year of 1923 when the town appropriated eighteen thousand dollars for the Center School and the Ledgeville School, the only two schools remaining in use. The total number of scholars in town was one hundred and thirty-five.

The following is a report of an exhibition of all our public schools, held in the Town Hall, Jan. 22nd, 1874: "The teachers indulged in

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pleasant anxiety and laudable pride of vying with each other in excellence of their respective schools. The program contained fifty-four different exercises which were performed creditably in *six and one-half hours* without a single failure; exercises in reading, declamation, geography, both written and mental arithmetic were remarkable for excellence; the good order of the scholars, more than two hundred in number, and the patience of the large audience held out to the end; the general quietness being interrupted only by bursts of enthusiasm and signs of approval, all of which indicated that the tide of popular feeling was set in the right direction."

In 1866 the district system was abolished and since that time the town has elected one member of the School Committee each year to serve a term of three years; this committee of three to have entire responsibility of all school questions in the town. As the population decreased, the outlying districts found it too difficult to continue its individual schools, so the scholars are transported to the Center School and the district school-houses have fallen to decay or have been disposed of. The last district school to be discontinued was Ledgeville, No. 4, which was finally closed as a school at the end of the spring term in 1943. Among the teachers who taught at Ledgeville were Elizabeth Coolidge, Agnes Duane Snow and Edna Grainger Nelson. The school-house is now used as a community center for the Ledgeville district.

During the years 1937 and 1938 the Historical Society placed substantial markers in each of the original districts indicating the sites of the former school buildings.

# CHURCHES -

## THE FIRST CHURCH, PETERSHAM

*Katherine T. Dexter*

Church of our fathers, founded on a rock,  
    Carved from the wilderness, slow block on block,  
With toil and sweat, and hope thy walls were laid,  
    By builders sturdy, independent, unafraid.

Sons of the Pilgrims, men who came,  
    By faith, across the sea in freedom's name  
To lay, at this new nation's gate,  
    The solid cornerstone of State.

As thy first, rude log structure gave  
    Its place to stately spire and nave,  
So has the living church outgrown  
    The creed its builders held their own.

Thy founders sleep, thou standest still,  
A light above the town set on a hill.

February 28th, 1935

The establishment of the church was among the first things to be considered, and at the second meeting of the Proprietors, held in Groton Oct. 30th, 1733 a vote was passed to build a Meeting-house.

According to Mr. Willson, "this first house of worship stood immediately opposite to the gateway of the burying ground, leaving a passage of perhaps twenty feet in width between its eastern end and front line of that yard. It was fifty feet long from east to west, forty feet wide and twenty-one feet stud. Its front door was on the south-

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

ern side; the pulpit on the northern. It was without spire, unpainted, with windows of small diamond-shaped glass set in lead."

After making many inquiries, I am convinced that the gateway mentioned was very close to the present north steps, the entrance leading directly past the table monument of the Rev. Aaron Whitney. This may have been an entrance for pedestrians only as older residents claim that the only driveway into the burying ground since 1860 was from East Street, in the rear of the town house and old tomb, and near the pound.

The first fifteen signers of the Church Book in 1738 are as follows:

Rev. Aaron Whitney, Nathaniel Wilder, Isaac Ward, Reuben Farnsworth, Thomas Adams, George Robbins, Nathaniel Stevens, Jonas Farnsworth, Joseph Wilson, John Oakes, Samuel Wilson, Zedekiah Stone, Silas Walker, James Clemence, Isaiah Glazier.

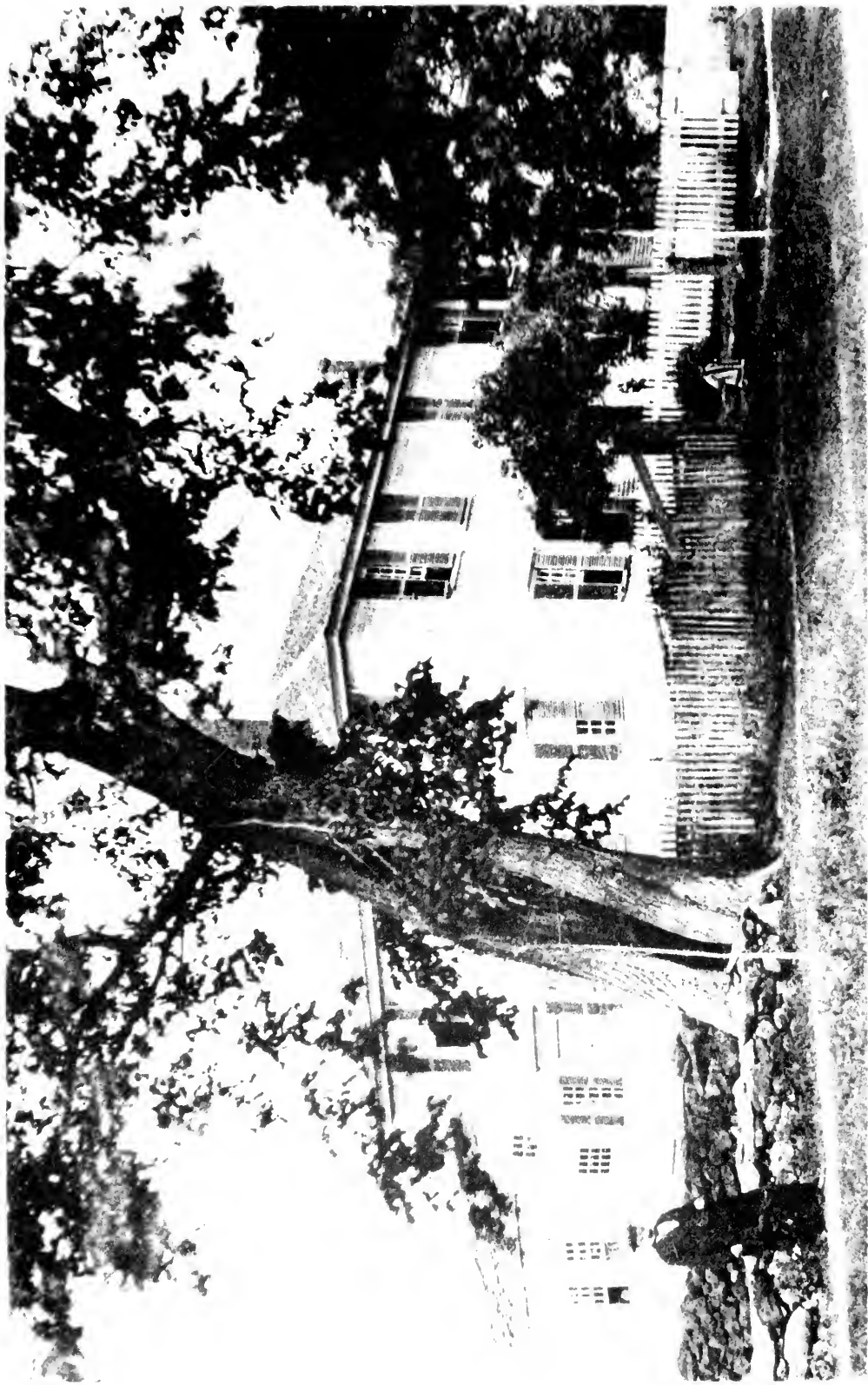
The first preaching in town was probably in the month of May 1736, by Mr. Ephraim Keith. Various ministers were employed until Dec. 1738 when Rev. Aaron Whitney was ordained as minister and continued as such till May 1775, when he was forbidden to preach from the pulpit, on account of his being a Tory. He continued to preach regularly at his own house, on the Sabbath, the services being attended by those who were politically in sympathy with him.

The second minister was Rev. Solomon Reed who was ordained in this place, Oct. 28th, 1780 and was dismissed from his ministry June 25th, 1800.

The following poem, taken from an old scrap-book, tells its own story. It should be remembered that the gauge of hospitality was the manner and extent to which the "liquors were plied", so this incident was not so outstanding as it would have been a hundred and fifty years later. The corner "toddy cup-boards" in the Solomon Reed Mansion remain today as they were built in 1788.

### "ALL OF THE OLDEN TIME"

There was a jolly clergyman,  
Lived in a country town;



Rev. Edmund Willson near the Solomon Reed Mansion built in 1788. Asa Pond, 1803-1815; Rev. Luther Willson, 1825-1834; Samuel Stevens, 1835-1843; Col. George White, 1843-1870; Sanford B. Cooke, 1870-1907.





## CHURCHES

Who took a sunny view of life  
And seldom wore a frown;  
He was a model farmer too,  
And owned some acres broad,  
And held that *works* as well as *faith*,  
Would bring their own reward.

There came a time when rumor rife,  
Said things were going wrong;  
The parson multiplied his lots  
And made them rather strong;  
His many friends were sorely grieved,  
So good a man should fall,  
For he possessed such worthy traits,  
That he was loved by all.

The hydra head and cloven foot,  
Were scarce suspected then;  
For spirits were of good repute,  
With many honest men;  
Their *moderate* use, twas often said  
A soothing power reveals,  
Warms up the gathers of the heart  
And elevates the heels.

But something must, at once be done,  
To check the growing vice;  
Some faithful friends must visit him,  
And offer their advice;  
In such a strait the proper ones,  
Would be the deacons three,  
And so they sent, that such a day,  
They'd with him come to tea.

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

Two wags, before the day had come,  
Sent him some liquors rare,  
And charged him to his visitors'  
To give an ample share;  
To make the mixture very sweet,  
And fill the glasses full,  
Their judgment wouldn't be severe  
Behind a "hearty pull".

The parson kindly took the hint,  
And plied the liquors well;  
A joyful peace and harmony,  
Upon that meeting fell;  
The sin they came to reprimand,  
By magic disappeared;  
Seen through an upturned drinking-glass  
The *sugar* interfered.

They started home in happy mood,  
With hearts as light as air,  
*One* hardly knew which end was up,  
Nor did he seem to care;  
When questioned by the artful wags,  
"Did things go to your mind?"  
"The satisfaction given us,  
Was of a Christian kind."

After the dismissal of Rev. Solomon Reed, the town was without a minister a little more than a year when Rev. Festus Foster was settled as the third minister of the town, in which office he continued till near the end of the year 1817.

On June 23rd, 1819 Rev. Luther Willson was installed here as

## CHURCHES

the fourth minister of the Town Church. He came here from the First Church of Brooklyn, Conn., bringing with him the more liberal views of religion which were fast culminating into the Unitarian denomination.

For one hundred and twenty years, ever since 1820, Petersham has reflected the honor and creditable leadership of Reverend Luther Willson more than that of any other man because of his own accomplishments in religion and education and those of his influential descendants. Introducing liberalism in the Calvinistic faith, the newer Unitarianism came into existence with its first Sunday School established in town, its first circulating library, and first organized action for benevolence. Under his cordial influence and faith in raising the standards of education, the schools of the town became more unified in their objectives and closer in their relations to each other. Every student in every district was made to realize that "Priest Willson" was his Personal friend. Through his daughter, who was the wife of Aaron Brooks, this commendable spirit of vision and upright leadership was extended to the later generations of the Brooks and Fiske families.

Through his son, Edmund Burke, himself a minister of the liberal faith in Grafton, West Roxbury, and in the North Church of Salem from 1859 to 1895, Petersham has been greatly enriched by his saintly influence and by the deep interest in its welfare by his children. His son, Robert, connected with Harvard Astronomical Department was a member of our summer colony for fifty years. His son, Edmund, an architect, settled in Providence, Rhode Island, made the plans for the Nichewaug, the Library, and Central School building. His daughters, Sophia E. Lee, Miss Lucy B. and Miss Alice B. Willson were the major powers that carried forward the plans of their cousins, James and Martha Brooks, in securing a fireproof building for preserving records, etc., of Petersham's historic past. Today the members of the fourth and fifth generation are still carrying on the commendable faith, and influence of their predecessors.

ORTHODOX CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

of Petersham, Massachusetts

A Short Historical Sketch

Some time during the summer of 1819 certain members of the Congregational Church in Petersham strongly felt that the pastor, the Rev. Luther Willson was not in accord with what they considered "the truths of the gospel essential in the evangelical system of religion," after due deliberation they withdrew from the Church and on March 25, 1823 organized themselves into a "religious society by the name of Orthodox Congregational Society in Petersham."

The following are the names of those that signed the compact: Samuel Stone, Daniel Grosvenor, Joel Goddard, David H. Grosvenor, Alanson Lincoln, David Goddard, Ashbel Goddard, Samuel Spooner, George Spooner, Daniel Goddard, Elbridge G. Gates.

Later an Ecclesiastical Council was called to meet at the house of the Rev. Daniel Grosvenor on June 25, 1823. This Council met on the above date and after due consideration voted unanimously to comply with the request of the said Society, and proceeded to organize the "Orthodox Congregational Church"; and extended to it the fellowship of the Churches represented.

The Covenant of the Church was approved by the Council, and in its presence, was signed by the following persons:—Joel Goddard and Ann, his wife; Daniel Grosvenor and Martha, his wife; David Goddard; Alanson Lincoln and Laura, his wife; Ashbel Goddard and Betsey Sophia, his wife; Lucy Lincoln; Samuel Spooner; Elisha Goddard; Elbridge Gates; Samuel Stone. (Signed one day later.)

The public services of the new Church were apparently held for several years at private residences. It is not known just when the present edifice on North Main Street was erected, but recent evidence seems to point to the year 1829.

It is not known who preached for the Society previous to 1830, except Mr. Warren Isham who supplied for some time previous to June 19, 1828.

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The Church has been served by eight installed pastors:—

1. Rev. William Walcott ordained and installed 1830.
2. Rev. Caleb B. Tracey installed June 26, 1834.
3. Rev. Columbus Shumay installed Oct. 4, 1837.
4. Rev. Solomon Clark installed April 14, 1841. (Ten years pastorate.)
5. Rev. A. B. Foster installed May 12, 1853, after him
6. Rev. Charles Kendall was acting pastor until 1862, when
7. Rev. Lucien H. Adams was ordained and installed Oct. 28, 1862, and was dismissed Jan. 2, 1865 to become a missionary of the A. B. C. F. M. in Turkey.
8. Rev. William Miller 1865 acting pastor.
9. Rev. Abijah Stowell 1868-1871 acting pastor.
10. Rev. Benjamin Ober 1872 acting pastor.
11. Rev. Charles Fifield was ordained and installed Oct. 14, 1874.
12. Rev. Solomon Bixby acting pastor 1875-1878.
13. Rev. Elbridge W. Merritt of Dana supplied the pulpit in connection with the Dana Congregational Church for seven years.
14. Rev. David Shurtliffe was the last installed pastor. Installed May 8, 1884, dismissed Sept. 17, 1888.

From 1888 to 1900 the Society was helped by the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society. At different times services were suspended for a while, and the remainder of the time Philipston and Petersham Congregational Churches were served by the same pastor. The pastors who served in the two parishes are:—

15. Rev. Roswell Foster.
16. Rev. Henry J. Stone. (One year.)
17. Rev. Daniel Adams.
18. Rev. Preston R. Crowell 1897-1900 when Mr. Crowell became resident pastor of the Petersham Church until May 1912.

In 1899 owing to the generosity of Mrs. William Waite Stewart the church building was moved farther back from the street and entirely renovated, and the parlors and kitchen added. Later the Misses Elizabeth B., Anna M., and Sarah L. Dawes gave the pipe

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organ. The Misses Dawes also remodeled the house on West Street which had been given the Society for a parsonage by the Misses Mary and Susanna Goddard.

In 1900 the Society voted to again become self supporting.

19. Rev. William G. Poor was pastor from Sept. 1912 until April 1918.

20. Rev. William B. Jennings July 1918 to October 1919.

21. Rev. Richard B. Grover, October 1920 to October 1928.

22. Rev. Howard W. Collins, December 16, 1928 to September 11, 1935.

23. James T. Carter, October 1, 1935—.

The Church unanimously voted to celebrate its centennial in June 1923 but owing to an outbreak of scarlet fever the exercises were postponed to September, and the celebration took place during the week of September 16-20, 1923.

### THE LADIES UNION

The Ladies Union—This organization was brought about very largely through the efforts of Mrs. George L. Perry, and began its life in the year 1896. Its special objects were originally five in number, viz:—religious, missionary, charitable, church aid and social. From the first its life has been vigorous and its record shows that it has been an organization of much power.

Its first officers chosen Oct. 1896 were Mrs. George L. Perry, Pres.: Mrs. Anna M. Dawes, Vice-Pres.: Edna Spooner, Sec. and Treas.: Mrs. George Prouty had charge of the "Plain Work" Committee and Miss Elizabeth B. Dawes the "Fancy Work" Committee.

### THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY

The Christian Endeavor Society, organized in November 1893 was the result of a union effort on the part of the young people of the Baptist and Congregational Churches and meetings were held alternately in each church. The charter members were:

Mrs. Maria N. Ayers, Miss Elizabeth Rockwood, Miss Elizabeth B. Dawes, Miss Cora L. Stratton, Miss Bertha E. Bohanon, Miss

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Viola E. Haven, Rev. John R. Conrad.

In 1899 the Society divided and became two societies, one Baptist and one Congregational. This division continued until 1910 when the two societies were merged, reorganizing as the "Petersham Christian Endeavor Society": meetings being held alternately in each church as before. Since 1919 however, the meetings, by common consent, have been held in the Congregational Church.

There was also a Junior Christian Endeavor Society.

### THE FIRST CHURCH, UNITARIAN

Rev. Luther Willson (1783-1864)

Luther Willson, the son of Joseph Willson and Sarah (Matthews) Willson, was born in New Braintree, Mass., April 26, 1783. He prepared for college at Leicester Academy. He entered Yale, but withdrew during the first year and continued his studies at Williams College. At the end of his junior year he took a position at Leicester Academy. Later he became principal preceptor. Here he prepared for college Governor Emory Washburn, Judge Charles Allen, and other boys who were to become conspicuous men. Meantime he studied theology with Rev. Zephaniah Swift Moore of Leicester and was licensed to preach. He, however, continued his connection with the Academy until June 13, 1813, when he was ordained junior pastor of the First Congregational Church of Brooklyn, Conn. Williams College recognized the quality of Mr. Willson's educational work by conferring upon him the degree of Master of Arts.

During the pastorate at Brooklyn, Mr. Willson's study of the Scriptures convinced him that the doctrines of the Trinity and the supreme deity of Jesus were not essentials or fundamentals of the Christian faith. A mutual council was called, and while recognizing the radical change of views the council recommended "mutual charity, and the concession to one another of the liberty which each claims for himself." The church by a majority vote declared approval of the finding of the council, but the minority resolved to carry their bitter opposition further. The Consociation of Windham County, which

Mr. Willson and his supporters claimed had no jurisdiction in the matter, met and declared his pastoral office in the churches in its connection and fellowship to be ended. The society refused to regard the action of the Consociation as valid, and continued to support their minister; but he, hoping that the factions would be reconciled if he were out of the way, proposed calling a council to consider his dismissal. The council sanctioned his dismissal with expressions of sympathy, approval, and confidence. The withdrawal of Mr. Willson did not cause the breach to be healed, however, the society calling the Unitarian Rev. Samuel J. May, to be his successor. Those who were in opposition withdrew and organized another church.

After leaving Brooklyn, Mr. Willson was disposed to give up a calling which held such uncertainties for the conscientious seeker and upholder of truth. He passed a week in Boston as the guest of Dr. William Ellery Channing and was presented by him with a watch "in recognition of his sturdy manhood." Mr. Willson was encouraged by Dr. Channing and other friends to remain in the ministry and soon received a call to the First Congregational parish in Petersham. Here he was installed on June 23, 1819.

The covenant of the church in Petersham was just the sort that Mr. Willson had been seeking. It did not require acceptance of the debated doctrines that had provoked such widespread dissension in the Brooklyn church and other churches of the Congregational fellowship, but left each member to follow his own conscience and convictions. This indicated a large liberal element in the community. However, the brethern were not all liberally disposed. Within a few years, those who yearned to hear the more rigid dogmas of the Calvinistic faith expounded first waited upon Mr. Willson and expostulated with him, and then, since he did not change his views or the manner of his preaching, but continued to expound what he regarded as the pure, undogmatic religion of "our Lord Jesus Christ, the *son* of God," but *not* "God the Son," the disaffected members withdrew and organized the North Congregational Church. This latter has continued its existence and has prospered as a representative of the con-





The Reverend Luther Willson



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servative or "Orthodox" Congregational faith and fellowship.

Mr. Willson served as pastor of the Church of Christ in Petersham until October 18, 1834, when he resigned. He continued to reside in the town until his death, preaching in various Unitarian pulpits, taking a personal interest in the schools and looking after his farm, which he managed with exceptional skill and judgment. He was a pioneer in the temperance reform and his labors in that cause bore much fruit. He was fond of music, and one of his early biographers says that "there are a few of his old flock left who pleasantly remember with what sacred unction he would add his sonorous voice to the singing of the last hymn."

An indication of the growth of toleration even during the life of Mr. Willson is shown by the fact that at the time of his death the local Baptist and Orthodox ministers took part in the service and testified to the nobility of his character, his integrity, his childlike sincerity and openness of mind, his charity, and his kindliness. Today the North Church and the First Church in Petersham work harmoniously together, each in its own way ministering to the spiritual life of its adherents, both co-operating in community and patriotic endeavors.

Dr. Andrew P. Peabody, writing of early Unitarians, said of Luther Willson, that he left "a spotless record of a life passed in simplicity and godly sincerity, and in the close and constant following of his Saviour."

Mr. Willson's inflexible honesty, his frank bearing, his consistent toleration and defence of free thinking and speaking, his charity, not ending in words, but going forth, according to his means, in acts of beneficence, gave him the respect and confidence of all . . . who honored and loved uprightness."

Revd. Luther Willson was dismissed Oct. 18th, 1834.

Revd. George R. Noyes, a native of Newburyport, and a Harvard graduate was installed as minister of the Unitarian Church in Oct. 1834. He remained here until elected to a professorship in the Theological School of Harvard University in 1840.

Revd. Nathaniel Gage, also a Harvard graduate was installed

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Oct. 6th, 1841 and dismissed in 1845.

Revd. Ephraim Nute, Jr., ordained Oct. 15th, 1845, dismissed early in 1848.

Revd. Martin W. Willis, installed in May 1848 and dismissed 1851.

Revd. John J. Putnam, installed 1852, dismissed 1855.

Revd. Seth Saltmarsh, installed Aug. 17, 1856, dismissed 1864.

Revd. Daniel Goddard, installed Oct. 18th, 1866, dismissed Dec. 3rd, 1869.

Revd. Thomas D. Howard, installed June 19th, 1870 and dismissed Aug. 1st, 1874.

Revd. Lyman Clarke from Oct. 24th, 1874 to Oct. 8th, 1882.

Revd. Isaac F. Porter from June 21, 1883 to May 1st, 1887.

Revd. Henry Harrison Brown from Jan. 1st 1888 to May 1st, 1889.

Revd. Edward Green, from Oct. 1st 1889 to May 1st, 1897.

Revd. Charles T. Sempers from Aug. 18th, 1897 to Nov. 24th, 1898.

Revd. Robt. Collyer Douthit from Nov. 24th, 1898 to Feb. 24th, 1902.

Revd. Alfred W. Birks from June 30th, 1902 to Aug. 31st, 1907.

Revd. George Browning Spurr from Dec. 1st, 1907 to June 1912.

Revd. Robert C. Douthit from Sept. 1st, 1912 to 1929.

Revd. Stephen H. Fritchman, 1930 to 1932.

Revd. Earl C. Davis, 1933.

Mrs. Ann Ingersoll bequeathed to the Unitarian Society, her house on West St. to be used as a Parsonage. This became the property of the Church in 1883 and under the able leadership of Capt. John G. Mudge, was remodeled to a large, roomy house, for the minister. The original house was a story and a half but it was raised to allow another story to be built beneath it, with double parlors on the west side for parish meeting purposes if required.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac F. Porter and their two sons were the first to occupy this new Parsonage.

During the pastorate of Revd. Edward Green, the Unity Club was organized, having for its objective, education as well as soci-

## CHURCHES

ability during the winter months. This flourished for more than ten years, and developed into a town interest, nearly all the inhabitants enjoying together, the "town sociables" held in Memorial Hall or in private houses large enough to accommodate the large company. A literary program was prepared by a committee appointed by the preceding committee.

During the pastorate of Revd. George B. Spurr, the church building was burned on Sept. 21, 1908 during a severe drought which prevented saving the church. An old barn, on the west side and close to the horse sheds, in the rear of the church was burned presumably from smokers, and lack of water prevented the saving of sheds and church. Just a week later an enthusiastic parish meeting was held in Memorial Hall to consider rebuilding. The first donation for the new church had already been received from Mattie Waugh, an absent Sunday School member, and this announcement was rapidly followed by pledges of more from an enthusiastic congregation, until at the end of one hour, it had been decided to rebuild, and fifteen thousand dollars had been pledged toward it. The corner stone was laid the following July 2, 1909, and in October the bell, the gift of Mrs. Ruth Mudge Rogers was hung in the belfry. The first Alliance meeting held in the new church was in March 1910. The first service in the new church was also held in March but the formal dedication occurred on June 2nd, 1910, Revd. W. W. Fenn, Dean of Harvard University, preaching the sermon.

It was during the pastorage of Mr. Spurr, that Mrs. Josephine Dickman built her beautiful home north of the parsonage, during the summer of 1909 or '10, becoming a very important factor in the history of the Church and the town. What Mrs. Stewart was in the North Church, Mrs. Dickman was in the Unitarian Church, both characters standing out conspicuously, as ideal examples of public spirit, hearty cordiality, deepest sympathy and wonderful generosity. It was said of Mrs. Dickman, that only once did she ever decline an appeal for assistance and she always *thanked* the applicant for giving her an opportunity to help the cause along. The one exception was when a party of thoughtless school girls asked the loan of her great

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Packard car to enable them to attend a ball game in a neighboring town: the only reason for her refusal being that it was, in her opinion, an unwise thing for her to do for the girls. All who knew Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Dickman are better men and women for having known them.

Revd. Mr. Spurr caused the church finances to be placed on a surer foundation, and especially was the endowment fund substantially increased.

Since Mr. Douthit's return in 1912, he held the band together, and aided much in keeping the town machinery running smoothly. Acting as Moderator of the Town meetings, in a conscientious, business like manner. His great popularity arose from the fact that every one of his acquaintances, whether in or out of the church, felt perfect confidence in his good judgment, deep sympathy and earnest endeavors to promote every project for the betterment of the town, its people, or the entire community.

It is pleasant to remember when Mr. Douthit first came to Petersham as minister of the Unitarian Church, Mr. Preston R. Crowell was pastor of the North Church and Mr. Harry Chamberlain was pastor of the Baptist Church; these three young clergymen seemed more like three brothers, councillors for the entire town than like the heads of three distinctive religious sects, and organizations; enthusiastic, congenial and untiring they arranged union services, and exchange of pulpits so often, that their congregations were not surprised at any arrangement they might make.

## HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

A Society of Universalists was organized here in 1836 and built a meeting house on the east side of the Common in 1837: this date is fixed from the fact that Miss Abbie Town, aged eight, sang at the dedication. During the twelve or thirteen years of its existence there were two settled ministers, Rev Messrs. John Willis and Josiah A. Coolidge.

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### HISTORY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

A Methodist Society was organized here about 1843, and during the five or six years of their existence there were three ministers, Rev. Mr. Dutton, Rev. Mr. Clarke, and Rev. Mr. Goodwin.

They erected a small chapel between the houses later owned by Miss Sallie Cochran and Miss Martha Brooks; this chapel was moved to a point on the Common between the street and the present Library room, where it was used as a store and Post Office. Later it was moved back to a point opposite its first location, and used for a Grange Hall, with a tenement above; and in 1899 Mr. James W. Brooks moved it again to become a part of the kitchen wing in the new Nichevaug Inn.

### HISTORY OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH

A Baptist Church was in existence in the south-westerly part of the town during the time of the Revolutionary War and at least ten years later. Its house of worship stood on the declivity of the hill descending to the "Factory Village" so called, near the spot for some time occupied by the store of one John L. Gallond about 1850 or before. The meeting house was moved to Dana where it was for some time occupied by the same Baptist Society, afterwards, it is believed, by the Universalist denomination, then it ceased to be used for church purposes. One of its pastors, Rev. Samuel Dennis was as ardent and zealous a patriot as Rev. Aaron Whitney was a Royalist. A Mr. Sellon served as a pastor and probably others. No records are known to be preserved of this society.

In Nov. 1824 a branch of the Baptist Church in Athol was organized in this town. Their minister, Rev. Thomas Marshall, Baptist minister, held services in the West School House, District No. 9. After his removal they had preaching only a part of the time. In May 1849 this branch church assumed an independent organization, and Rev. John Shepardson became their first pastor. He was succeeded by T. M. Merriman who stayed two or three years; then Rev.

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E. C. Anderson and Rev. Thomas P. Briggs, Rev. Kilborn Holt, Rev. A. A. Smith, Rev. Harry T. Slocum, Rev. John R. Conrad, Rev. George W. Kenny, Rev. Harry W. Chamberlain, Rev. A. R. MacDougal, and Rev. Charles S. Nightingale. When Mr. Nightingale left town services were discontinued, and the congregation united with the North Church.

In 1935 services in the Baptist Church were resumed under the pastorate of Rev. James McLeod for three years, until September 1938, since which time no services have been held in the church, nor has there been a settled Baptist minister. Church building removed to Worcester 1947.

About the year 1783 the singular sect called the Shakers made their appearance in town. Some persons of substance joined them, and large numbers attended their meetings,—some from curiosity, some for better motives, some from worse. One of their principal gathering places was the residence of Mr. Thomas Hammond.

Mr. Willson states: "If we may credit the affidavits and various testimony of several who were with them but who afterwards left them, their proceedings were scarcely better than orgies of Pandemonium." So excited was the opposition at length aroused against them in the popular feeling, that a mob collected about their place of resort and they were violently assaulted. Mother Ann Lee is said to have fought valiently against the assailants in person.

The Shakers, though at one time considerably numerous in the vicinity, obtained no permanent foothold in Petersham, nor had they at any time a Society established. Rev. E. B. Willson further says, "One of our aged citizens, Mr. George Bosworth, tells me he remembers when there was more Shaker travel by his house than all the present travel." The character known as "Hermit Allen", whose eccentric life is a matter of familiar tradition, belonged to them. He lived by himself, after the dispersion of the Shakers, in a hut in the fields south of the Clapp Spooner (afterwards David Dudley Place, now owned by Mrs. Georgianna Fisher), and as he sat among the boughs of his butternut tree, in the calm summer nights, and gave voice to the wildest chants of a becrazed fanaticism, his vociferations are said to have



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been heard miles away through the still air.

A second church of Calvinistic faith was gathered in the southwest part on the borders of Dana and Hardwick about 1832, and a house was built at a place called Tinkertown, now known as Storrsville. The ministers there were Rev. Mr. Houghton, and Rev. John Keep. It had a continuous existence of twenty years, then the building was sold and taken to Brookfield for a shop.

The town's first church building was erected about 1737, and used during the entire pastorate of Aaron Whitney. The east end of it located twenty feet west of the present north steps to the old cemetery. Late in the year 1783 the town's second church building was commenced during the pastorate of the second settled minister. The location of this second church was the center of the common where the flag pole now is. The bell cast by Paul Revere & Sons, was hung in this church and was the gift of Eleazer Bradshaw, Esq., of Brookfield. The bell, recast in 1798, was encircled by the inscription: "The living to the Church I call and to the grave I summon all."

Rev. Mr. Festus Foster, Rev. Luther Willson, and Rev. George B. Noyes held their pastorates in this church building.

In 1842 the Unitarians built their own church on the west side of the common and the town church that was built in the 1780's was moved to the east side of the common beside the town house and was burned with it on Feb. 5th, 1845, during one of the fiercest snow storms the town has ever known. George Ayers stated that burning fragments from this fire were carried by the east wind as far as his farm, a mile west of town.

The pastorates of Nathaniel Gage, Ephraim Nute, Martin W. Willis, J. J. Putnam, Seth Saltmarsh, Daniel Goddard, Thomas Howard, Lyman Clark, Isaac Porter, Henry Brown, Edward Green, Charles Sempers, Robert Douthit, Alfred Birks, were in this third church building, which was destroyed by fire Sept. 21st, 1908, rebuilt as nearly as possible on the plan of the former one, but including Sunday School room and parlor, ministers room, etc.; it also has the beautiful mahogany pulpit which was saved from the old church.

In 1828, a town clock was placed in the belfry of the church that

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

stood in the center of the common. This clock, which was the gift of Cyrus Wadsworth, and the Paul Revere bell, the gift of Eleazer Bradshaw, were both removed to the new Unitarian Church on the west side of the common in 1842.

The old clock was replaced in 1900 by a new one presented to the Parish by the grandchildren of Rev. Luther Willson, and dedicated to his memory. This was destroyed in the fire of 1908, and many townsfolk not members of the Unitarian Church contributed generously for the present church clock.

### HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Written by

Emma Brunelle Barnes

The Catholic Parish of Petersham originally numbered about twenty families, and all were farmers and of Irish ancestry. For some years they belonged to the parish at Otter River, which parish included the towns of Ashburnham, Westminster, Gardner, Winchendon, Templeton, Barre, Athol, and Orange.

Otter River, the oldest parish in this western section of the State, was a mission connected with Worcester until 1864 when a permanent pastor (Father Coin) was appointed there, with missions in the above outlying towns.

About 1842 to 1864 the first recorded Catholic families settled here in Petersham were:

Michael Connor (at the Burt Coolidge place), Martin Hillary, William Harty, James Burns, Michael Broderick, Thomas and Patrick Carberry (Batchelors), Thomas Phelan, Michael Keavney, Michael Joyce, Patrick Tobin, Dennis McCormack, Patrick Glasheen, Michael Madden, Thos. Keating, Frank Kenney (at Cowan place), Thos. Franklin (afterward married and lived at the Pond place), John Smith, James McManus, John McManus.

After 1864 the parishioners of this town from the east and south sides attended church in Barre while those from the center and north

## CHURCHES

went to Athol. This arrangement was difficult, but was followed quite faithfully by them. It was almost a hardship to the children and young people, especially through the winter months. There is a little plot of ground still owned by the Otter River parish near the eastern edge of Petersham, in Phillipston township which contains the ashes of many of these pioneer people. There are also some whose names the records do not show but who contributed to their community's upbuilding.

When Mr. Stanislaus Brunelle came to Petersham in 1890 he found his the only French speaking family but one in the town. The other was Joseph Bouchard (known as Bush), who had come from Labrador in 1880 and settled near Brown's Pond. In his reminiscences, Mr. Brunelle told of his first acquaintance with many of the Irish families; their kindly friendliness, and their determination to bring up their children as good citizens. Being a barber he came to know them one and all. Patrick Tobin he recalled as the man whose ability to read or write was scant, but declared he'd vote for all the candidates on the ballot because they were, "All good fellows". Old Mr. Glasheen, whose bountiful home was the rendezvous of many, lived to an old age. The Joyce family were progressive and upstanding and after a while some of the boys became identified with big business houses in Boston and other New England cities. Mr. Brunelle told how his first employer's wife, a great worker in the Baptist Church, urged him to let his family attend their Sunday School. With entire appreciation of her friendliness he decided that it was time to thoroughly identify his family with his own faith as well as the school and community. Others in the Parish were of the same mind and together they brought the matter to the attention of the pastor at Otter River and he to the Bishop.

The Town was becoming a larger summer colony each year and many had Catholic servants here for the summer. The inconvenience of transportation was brought to the attention of the Reverend Thomas Purcell.

Accordingly in 1894, a mission was established here, holding services once a month during June, July, August, September, and Oct-

ober. The first meeting place was in Grange Hall. The attendance was from 60 to 85 members. This plan was followed until 1898 when Fr. Purcell was transferred to Turners Falls. Then the mission was continued from Barre by Fr. James Pendergast who was a native of Jefferson. The meeting place was changed to the Town Hall on account of increased membership. It was during his pastorate that the one Town Hall wedding took place. Aurora Brunelle, "Was solemnly given in marriage", to Edmund J. Bassow of Stafford, Conn.

In 1903, by the division of parishes Petersham was transferred to the Athol area and the newly appointed pastor at Athol, Rev. Jas. J. Howard took charge with the assistance of a curate. From then on the services were held every two weeks the whole year. Father Howard was a native of Brookfield and had a real knowledge of the ways and means in a town of this type and Petersham was friendly to him.

Under his efficient leadership it was decided to build a chapel which was started in May, 1914. (Constructed by F. P. Morey of Springfield, Mass.) The land, given by Mrs. Jas. J. Higginson of New York, a summer resident, is the site of the Burrage House occupied last by Leason Ward and his family. Contributions were received from all the community irrespective of creed and many substantial ones from former parishioners and friends. Among these we find the names of Mrs. Josephine Dickman, Miss Sally Cochran, William Simes family, Misses Furness, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. E. Eaton, Miss Emily Potter, Miss Brooks, Mrs. F. H. Lee, Mr. E. C. Dexter, Mr. and Mrs. Woolsey, the Misses Hodges, Prof. and Mrs. R. W. Wilson, Mr. George West, James McManus, every family belonging to the parish and many more not mentioned here. Yearly, the generosity of most of these same friends helped the parish materially. Mr. Woolsey brought the chapel bell from France and gave it among other gifts. The chapel was completed and dedicated August 30, 1914. It was most fitting that it should be called St. Peter's Church since it stands at the edge of the, "Ham of Peter" (St. Peter's town).

The families who were members resident in Petersham were John F. Barnes, Thos. Barnes, Thos. Brady, Daniel Broderick, Patrick Connor, John and Mary Glasheen, Mrs. Ernest Blodgett, John Snow,

## CHURCHES

James Gralton. John and Elizabeth McCormack, Joseph Harty, Mrs. Wm. Buell, Robert Reid, Mrs. Chas. Waide, Mr. Stanislaus Brunelle, Mrs. William Cobb; and three summer families, Michael Myers of Salem, William Ring of Boston, and Edward Madden of Cambridge.

The eagerness with which the members took up the work of their parish is shown in the fine and numerous gifts they gave, like the memorial windows, the statuary, the altar vestments, the organ, etc. The windows were brought from Europe and assembled here. They are fine materials and marked according to the wishes of the donors, i. e.:

In memory of James Burns.

Gift of Catherine Shea.

Connor Memorial.

Gift of Thomas Duane (in memory of Agnes Duane).

Gift of Teresa Burns.

In memory of Patrick and Catherine Glasheen.

Gift of Mary T. Gralton.

Gift of Eva Barnes.

In memory of James McManus and wife.

Gift of Stanislaus Brunelle and family.

Gift of James Barnes.

Gift of Mrs. John Barnes.

Gift of Catherine Sands.

Father Howard was transferred to a Worcester parish in October, 1916, and Rev. M. J. Curran appointed in his place until May, 1917, when Petersham and North Dana together were made a separate parish.

In October, 1916, the first wedding took place in the new Church. This one was Miss Stella Brunelle to Arthur Ballard of Gilbertville, Mass. They went to live in Gilbertville.

In the spring of 1917, Rev. Thos. F. McKoan was sent as resident pastor. He had no rectory so rented the Chas. Buell cottage on Oliver Street, pending the purchase of one. Later, he purchased the Kate Bryant place across the street from the church for a rectory, disposing of the unneeded land to Judge Woolsey. Until this time

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

the children of the parish had shared holiday celebrations with the children of other churches, especially the Unitarians. Now they had their own gatherings, and the rectory was a rendezvous for those who enjoyed the pleasant discussions and music, especially the latter. Even the World War in Europe did not mar these gatherings noticeably. Two parish boys enlisted for the World War: James Brady and William Barnes, and both returned at the end of their military service.

Another wedding took place that summer at the new church, that of Maude Barnes to Thos. Duane of Boston and they settled in Petersham. The following spring saw the passing of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Barnes. Mr. Barnes had sold their "Petersham House" the year before to Dr. F. A. Donaldson and had been living in the Louisa Smith house on East Street.

In 1922, Father Phillip J. Martin came to replace Fr. McKoan. He was an energetic man and tried to do many things for the few children of his parish. Two new families came but did not stay long, and the Jas. Graltons moved away. He inaugurated some social activities that finally paid the last of the parish debt and taught the children in their homes and solved transportation difficulties. After the years of going to other towns for these things the people appreciated their own church and pastor and have never failed in gratitude to the many friends and pastors who made it all possible.

In 1924, the double wedding of Marguerite Barnes to Albert Brunelle, and Emma Brunelle to William Barnes took place in the church. Except for the marriage of Mary Connor to Daniel Broderick in 1903, this was the only other instance when two families within the Petersham parish were united. Albert Brunelle took up his residence in town as barber as had his father. The Daniel Brodericks conducted a business on West Street in the store once occupied by Henry Cook.

Later Eva Barnes married William Smith of the Nichewaug Smith family and they settled in the house on East Street her father had owned.

The Duanes settled in Petersham and conducted a garage on East

## CHURCHES

Street, then later moved to the Dwight Towne place on North Street, where he had a gasoline station.

In 1925, another change of pastors brought Father Lynnes to Petersham to stay until 1933. A new family came to Petersham and built a summer home and helped increase the parish membership. They were the Roger Putnams of Springfield, Mass. Also the George Kenneys came here from Springfield. Mrs. Kenney was formerly one of the Brady family of Petersham and she and her brother James Brady took over the care of their father, Mr. Thos. Brady, in his last years.

Due to hard times, the parish had to forego a resident pastor and the parish was taken under the pastorate of Rev. M. J. Curran and the Athol parish once again.

Many changes in membership have taken place since 1925, but some of the first parish families are still represented. Of these is Mrs. Louis King whose grandchildren, the Robert Thayers, are the fifth generation from the first McCormacks that came to Petersham.

William Barnes returned to live in Petersham and his sons are the third generation of his family name to live in the town.

Three pretty weddings recently took place among the younger members of the parish, that of Alice King to Theo Grennier of Old Pelham, and Edna Reid to Etalio Moschini of Athol, and on May 6, 1940, Katherine C. Broderick and Norman V. Smith.

Many a Sunday during the summer finds every pew in the church taken because scores of motorists noticing the hour of Mass and being attracted to the quiet beauty of the place, feel St. Peter's in Petersham is a good place to pause and worship God.

# Petersham Historical Society, Incorporated

*"It is a fine art to use memory so as to nourish present life."*

Quoted from Rev. John J. Putnam

The early records of the town are very meagre and there seemed to be little interest in its history until March 26th, 1840, when Jared Weed delivered a paper upon "The Early History of Petersham" before the Petersham Lyceum; referred to by Mr. Willson in his centennial address, and again acknowledged by Rev. Lyman Clark in the Worcester County History of 1889. In 1902, Rev. John J. Putnam caused to be printed the records of the Petersham Lyceum from 1833 to 1848. In 1898 a group of the older citizens organized an Historical Society which flourished a few years; valuable papers were written and a start made in collecting articles of interest.

On April 24th, 1912, James Brooks called a meeting of the younger element of the town at his home, when an enthusiastic reorganization of the Historical Society was accomplished with Mr. Brooks as President, Miss Elizabeth Dawes as Vice-President, Mrs. Caroline Harris as Secretary, and Mrs. Mabel Coolidge as Treasurer, and with a membership of thirty-five. The following September Mr. Brooks died but his sister, Miss Martha, was an enthusiastic member during her life.

As early as 1916, Miss Martha Brooks insisted that a fireproof building was a necessity to preserve valuables, and a small sum for that purpose was set aside. On Aug. 7th, 1923, she deeded the Capt. Mudge lot 150 ft. by 50 ft. to the Society. On the 31st of Aug., the same year, an "Old Home Day" was held for the purpose of raising funds for the new building. The committee in charge consisted of Mrs. Edna Campbell, Charles E. Osgood, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hapgood, none of them members of the Society, but all of them enthusiastic for a great celebration. They succeeded in accomplishing the greatest social event of modern Petersham. The receipts were \$947.54, the expenses \$520.81, leaving a balance of \$426.73 for the building fund which was rapidly increased by individual contributions. Miss Brooks obtained plans from John S. Ames, Architect, for



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

a \$15,000 brick structure having three rooms and basement room. The model was patterned from the Holden Chapel in Cambridge. The plan was accepted, and was to be built as soon as the money could be raised. Miss Brooks was impatient with any delay, as she longed to see it accomplished. On Aug. 8th, 1923, a building committee was chosen consisting of Mrs. Sophia E. Lee, Charles W. Gates, and George W. Cook, the latter declining on account of pressure of other business. A busy year followed in collecting funds and making plans, for the sentiment of the majority was that no building should be started until the \$15,000 was in hand.

On Aug. 4th, 1924 occurred the death of Miss Martha Brooks, followed by a year of discouragement and uncertainty, with only half the sum raised. On July 11th, 1925 at a meeting held at the home of Miss Dawes and Mrs. McNutt, Mrs. Lee revealed the fact that on the evening before the death of Miss Brooks, she had extracted from Mrs. Lee a promise to accomplish the building as already planned, and she was eager to begin; she had consulted Mr. Ames who announced that the former plan would cost about \$18,000. To adjust the plan to \$15,000, the entrance decoration, two small rooms, and two front windows would be omitted and dimensions of the building reduced. This was discouraging and a compromise plan was made for the consideration of the architect; a vote taken for the directors to decide with Mr. Ames upon a plan and the work to be started as soon as an understanding was reached. Hourly, the directors expected the summons to decide this all important question. The summons never came, and within a week, the work was commenced by the Taylor, Wheeler Co. of Athol! What had happened? Each director felt that the others had gone along without him. The treasurer resolved to pay no bills until a plan of some kind was accepted by the directors. For three months, Mrs. Lee paid all the bills presented to her without a murmur. The time came when she must return to her Salem home for the winter, but Mr. Gates, the other member of the committee, was perfectly capable of supervising the building during the winter; but what about it? There seemed to be a kink in the business somewhere, and something must be done.

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

A meeting of the directors was called and it was agreed that altho' no plan had been accepted and only half the necessary funds in hand, there seemed no alternative but to go on as best we could, raise funds as fast as possible and be thankful for whatever kind of building we would have. It would, at least be fireproof, and that was the most important thing. The following circular was sent to more than three hundred friends of the town, bringing such results that when the final payment was made, May 26th, 1926, only \$1679.78 had to be borrowed of Mrs. Lee and that was paid to her attorney, Jan.29th, 1928:

### DEAR FRIEND OF THE HOME TOWN:

*The Petersham Historical Building is nearing completion and the final payments are due in November. To meet these payments an incumbrance of four thousand dollars will be placed on the building, unless the friends of this worthy project send in their contributions before November 1st, 1925.*

*Every sojourner in Petersham becomes a part of its history, therefore should be interested in preserving that history.*

*Every serious-minded person appreciates the value of the splendid influence of the lives of those who have "gone before", and realizes his responsibilities in assembling all good influences for the future.*

*This building will not be a burden to the town in any way, but we do need your individual assistance now, to make it an asset to be proud of*

*Life Memberships, with a fee of twenty-five dollars, swell the endowment fund for the maintenance of the building.*

*We believe you are interested and will respond to the Building Fund as soon as November 1st and to the Endowment Fund at your convenience.*

MABEL A. COOLIDGE, *Treasurer.*

*President M. E. Williams*

*Secretary Carrie S. Harris*

*Vice-President Elizabeth B. Dawes*

*Auditor Charles W. Gates*

*Directors: Robert C. Douthit, Alice S. Phillips,*

*Jennie R. Smith and Elizabeth A. Gay.*

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There were one hundred sixty-five contributors to the building fund, varying from fifty cents to the five thousand dollars given by Mrs. Lee. Not until the last payment on the building was made did we have the courage to inquire why the workmen began before the plan was accepted. It was revealed that Mr. Ames had never heard of any dissatisfaction with the second plan and when Mrs. Lee asked Mr. Taylor when he could begin work on the building, he replied, "We will begin tomorrow if you say so." She gave the word to begin, with joy and relief in fulfilling her promise to Miss Brooks.

On June 12th, 1925, Margaret Fiske, Jr., deeded 20 ft. by 150 ft. additional land to the Historical Society, making a frontage of seventy feet; and in 1927 an additional square of 6 ft. by 6 ft. for the monument presented to the Society by the New England Society of Brooklyn, commemorating the incident ending Shays Rebellion.

Since the building has been completed, Mrs. J. J. Higginson has borne most of the expense of its upkeep, and presented the Society with the last stage coach used in town, driven by George Gibbs; she paid for the care of the grounds and the shrubbery, and Norway Spruce trees, linen curtains, covers for cases, etc., until the spring of 1938.

Among the valuables in the collection are: the indexed copies of the Town Records from 1757 to 1793, the First Church Records 1738, Mrs. Rowlandson's Diary (No. 46), the Dore Bible presented to Wm. B. Spooner in 1868, the Hammond silver and homespun counterpanes, the collection of pictures of Petersham houses, the copy by Carolyn Goodsell of the picture painted by Fred Bosworth of Petersham Common in 1835, two china tea-sets formerly belonging to Ann Ingersoll and Mrs. Artemas Loring, a gown of 1760; thorough-brace wagon made by Artemas Brigham, etc. The bronze tablet was placed September 24th, 1927.

There are sixty-five life members, creating a substantial endowment fund.

# OLD HOME DAY

(Aug. 31st, 1923)

## “ADDRESS OF WELCOME”

*by* Mabel A. Coolidge

Our ancestors proved their judgment was good,  
When they settled among Petersham rocks,  
Tilling the soil, clearing the wood,  
Raising their herds and flocks;  
Rearing their young close to Nature's heart,  
In sunshine, good air, open space,  
So these husky young scions thrive well from the start,  
Prepared for all life's duties to face.

They enjoyed their great freedom with all childish glee  
Tho' "stinted" each day with their work,  
Weaving of "binds" or the braiding of hats,  
They knew far better than shirk  
For the one greatest precept at home or at school  
Wherever their pathways might lie,  
Was that older folks' word was as true as the sun  
Which no children could ever deny.

Some of *you* scions grew restless  
Not quite content to stay.  
You found "somewhere else" more attractive  
And forthwith you wandered away.  
Severed the ties that bound you  
To the home and companions you had known.  
You glimpsed the lure of the outer world  
And attached to that "elsewhere" you've grown.

## OLD HOME DAY

Some of us stayed in the Home Town  
Tho' she is cold and bleak and rough  
Somehow—we rather like it  
For us she is quite good enough.  
We lacked the courage to say "Goodbye"  
To the spot so near to Heaven.  
Her charms are so many and her failings so few,  
We've lingered and are contented even.  
However, it matters but little  
Whether *you* went or *we* came,  
The associations for all of us,  
Are doubtless quite nearly the same.

We have worshiped in these churches,  
Given our souls up to our God.  
We have laid away our loved ones  
Beneath this earth and sod.  
We received our education  
In the old-time "District School"  
Where the rod that was not spared us,  
Was the rod of the Golden Rule.  
Six hours a day they gave us  
With holidays seldom indeed,  
And often an extra session  
To meet our urgent need.

In overalls—barefoot and tousled,  
Tan and freckles the greatest charm  
Mother's doughnuts, pies and pickles  
In the dinner-pail swung on the arm.  
How eagerly we looked for Friday eve,  
The usual end of the week,  
For Lyceum came on that blessed night

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

When all must sing or speak.  
The High School room was crowded  
Long 'ere the meeting begun.  
Discussions were long and ardent,  
The school paper full of fun.

Our only connection with the outside world,  
The six horse thorough-brace coach,  
How well we remember the cracking whip,  
Heralding its approach!  
Those long tedious trips to a neighboring town  
Over stony much-washed roads.  
Those roads that were always up hill or down;  
The journeys *so long* with big loads.  
How we sat in the boiling hot sunshine  
While Dobbin walked the rise!  
Stopping to rest on the "Thank-you-ma'ams"  
And eternally flicking flies.

Remember driving cows to pasture  
In the early dew and damp,  
Or hooking horn-pout in the evening  
In the neighborhood of Tom's Swamp?  
We fished Rutland Brook before it was posted,  
Picknicked on Burntshirt, climbed Chimney Hill,  
Away down to Towers we often have coasted,  
Watched the grist grinding down at Parlin's old mill.  
Picking blueberries over on Prospect,  
In the autumn what joy was yours,  
Chestnuting down Sacketts Harbor,  
Or walnuting over at Brewer's.

## OLD HOME DAY

We have often danced in yonder hall  
At the annual winter Levee,  
We never stopped at *one* o'clock,  
But danced right on till three.  
The festival often beginning at dusk,  
Quadrilles, contras, a polka, a waltz,  
Portland Fancy, Lancers, or gay Money-musk,  
Cemented strong friendships that never prove false.

Did you ever see the moon shine brighter,  
Anywhere along your way,  
Than on a clear, cold winter's night  
When with old Dobbin and a sleigh  
You took a drive 'round the Turnpike,  
From Brad Hodges' over to Gale's  
And home again through the creaking snow  
Piled high above the rails?

Have you taken a sleigh-ride to Athol  
Coming back over Petersham Street?  
Our beauty spot in summer,  
But Oh! in the winter's sleet;  
Stuck in that snowdrift near Wheeler's,  
After shoveling the length of Mann Hill  
Kissed by that breeze from the Arctic  
Until you are sure of a chill?  
Noses and ears a tingling  
Decide you not to tarry,  
Only one worse spot in this region  
And that's over Winship's in Barre.

Remember the March Town-meeting

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

That simmered for two months or more  
When the *men* folks gathered for voting  
On articles by the score.  
This was no one-man town in those days;  
Each man had a mind of his own.  
He wasn't afraid to admit it,  
Even though he might stand alone.  
Whether leader—or less—he spoke freely;  
He spoke his convictions with vim,  
Showing plainly he cared very little  
What others were thinking of him.  
Now when a little bird told you  
That today we would be "at home"  
You cast your thoughts on these former days,  
And decided you'd gladly come  
Back to the Old Home Town again,  
And greet the boys and girls,  
Gray-haired now—whom you remember  
As wearing kilts and curls.

So you cleaned and oiled the motor,  
Arranged that business care,  
And back to the town came flying.  
Our celebration to share.  
But if you wanderers come gladly  
To greet your friends today,  
*Just double* your gladness to measure ours  
Who have found it convenient to stay.  
Yes, we are doubly glad to greet you all  
And mingle the "Now with the "Then".  
And we hope that the pleasure of coming  
Will bring you again and again.



*OLD HOME DAY*

To each and every one of you  
Who preferred, afar to roam,  
The glad heart and hand are extended  
By us who stayed at home.

# CEMETERIES

*"Dying means going to Petersham to stay."*

John Fiske, (*Historian*).

Petersham has twelve cemeteries within its borders. There are three others that were set off to the town of Dana in 1801 that may be restored to our township when the lines in the Metropolitan Water Basin are adjusted.

1. The Village Cemetery with the church built close beside it in 1737, was the first one used when the town was settled. The first markers were fashioned from rudely cut field stone, but probably the graves of the first thirty years were never marked, or not sufficiently to withstand the elements. The tablet marking the resting place of the Tory parson, Reverend Aaron Whitney, is the only one of its kind in our town but is in close resemblance to the many seen in England's church-yards. The great quartz stone on top of the Daniel Miles monument was originally on the Miles farm in the east part of the town. The outstanding marker is that on the grave of John Fiske, the historian, in the additional plot on the southeast corner of the cemetery. The lower part of this granite boulder represents chaos, above which is the perfect world, while at the top is the flame of knowledge trending heavenward. The Latin inscription is the motto by which John Fiske lived. "Learn as tho' to live always; live as though to die tomorrow."

2. About 1860, the town considered buying the Allen Hill, situated south of John B. Paine's residence, for a cemetery but finally bought the plot off the Robert Goddard farm, a half mile east of the village. Half of this area was timberland for about twenty years, so the first interments were near the road, but as needed, the north end was cleared and graded. About 1923, the swamp in the center was ditched and drained into a beautiful body of water, and the whole plot beautified.

3. The Second East Cemetery was given to the town by John Gates, and is a part of his original tract of many acres. When Francis Lee and Amey Willson made a survey in 1899 they found 210

## CEMETERIES

marked graves, the earliest being that of Jesse Stone in 1804. Beside being the last resting place of John Gates and his descendants, we find the families of Baker, Bryant, Bouker, Brown, Bancroft, Stevens, Stearns, Hodges, Hammond, Hapgood, Houghton, Newton, and Upton. The burial places of Samuel Gates, the first settler and his family are unknown.

4. A tiny plot was set apart for burial on the great Howe farm in the northeast part of the town a few rods north of the house now occupied by the family of Frank A. Coolidge, where eight markers are still standing, including Sylvanus How, February 16th, 1802, aged 75 years. "He was zealous in the cause of independence, the best of farmers, an honest man, and revered his God." Here also are the graves of Joel How, April 7th, 1802, aged 38; and his wife Sarah, November 3rd, 1849, aged 83 years; and the child of a neighbor, Joab Miles, 1803, aged 11 years.

5. Near the border of the town on the Hubbardston road is another tiny burial plot, with thirteen markers for members of the Williams and Randall families. The earliest marker found here is William Walker, who died of smallpox February 21st, 1777, aged 60.

6. In the burial plot on the Athol road near the Harvard Forestry School, Mr. Lee's survey revealed sixty-three names in 1899, including the names of the Davenport, Knowlton, French, Sanderson, Mann, and Ward families; the earliest inscription being that of a one year old son of Jereme and Polly Davenport in 1808.

7. The land for the northwest burying ground was given to the town by Thomas Clements and Mr. Lee found sixty-eight inscriptions, the earliest being that of Caty, wife of Eleazer Walker, in 1834. Here are found the names of Burrage, Gale, Clement, Cheney, Johnson, Stone, Smith, Thayer, and Willard.

8. The neighborhood plot, taken from the farm of Enos Lincoln, contains thirty-eight headstones, the earliest being that of Emily, daughter of Enos and Sarah Lincoln, aged 19 years, March 23rd, 1816. Beside the Lincoln families are names of Knapp, Robinson, Goddard, Ballou, and Foster.

9. The West Cemetery was evidently a part of the Benjamin

Simmons farm noted from the interesting report which follows:

“Being A pinted Commite to examin A Sutebel place for Berring Grown in the west part of petersham Report.

“That we have A greeid with Bengurman simans for one half of a Naker of land at the north west corna his farm at the corna of the Rode that leads to Moss Masons. Te be all wall in and Gate maid All to be dun A. \$36.05 May 7, 1810.”

Although the above report was dated 1810, the earliest date seems to be that of Sarah Clapp, October 3rd, 1803. Here we find the names of Hildreth, Bancroft, Bosworth, Moses and Joshua Sanderson, Tarrant Sibley, and Carver Wood. Mr. Francis Lee noted forty-one inscriptions.

10. Two miles from the village on the Dana Road is the burial plot given to the town by Joel Goddard, where more than sixty of that neighborhood lie buried. Beside the families of William, Joel, Ashbel, and Stephen Goddard, there are those of the Amidon, Chamberlain, Coolidge, Loring, and Town families. The earliest inscription is that of Anna, wife of Joel Goddard, September 14, 1823.

11. Near the southwest edge of the town and beside the road to Dana Center is another neighborhood burial plot having twenty-three markers, the earliest being that of Rachel, wife of William Woodward, April 1777, aged 34. Here are to be found the names of Jonathan Meecham, Asa Snow, John Carter, Seth Blanchard, Joseph Briggs, and Edward Babbett.

12. In 1839 Thomas J. Chamberlain deeded sixteen square rods to the town of Petersham for a burial ground, near the “Factory Village” at the south end of the town.

When the territory was taken from Petersham to create the town of Dana, there were included in it three small cemeteries located as follows:

1. Near the corner of the Camel’s Hump Road and the Dugway Road near the residence of Captain Seth Williams.

2. Near the post marking the junction of the towns of Hardwick, Greenwich, and Petersham, near the residences of Jarius Williams and Samuel Morse.

## CEMETERIES

3. A few rods east of the Storrsville Four Corners was the church-yard adjoining the Congregational Church established in 1832 in the section then called Tinkertown.

The remains in these three Cemeteries were all interred in the Quabbin Park Cemetery in 1939. (and Chester E. Hathaway presented the Petersham Historical Society with the diagrams of all three original cemeteries)

### EPITAPHS

The following epitaph is to be found in the Gates Cemetery four times, once in the Snow Cemetery, and once in the extreme east plot:

“Reader, behold, as you pass by  
As you are now, so once was I.  
As I am now, so you shall be  
Prepare for death and follow me.”

On the stone marking the grave of Joab Young, 1881:

“Earth has lost a pleasant, kind, and cheerful soul, one who carried joy and sunshine wherever he went. Forget him—may we never.”

Thomas Stevens, 1813: “Whom it is unpardonable to lay down in silence and of whom it is difficult to speak with justice for his just character will look like flattery and the least abatement is in injury to his memory. Praises on tombstones are like vanity spent. A good man’s name, his best monument.”

The following inscription was found on a stone in the supposed Indian or Shaker Cemetery in the west part of Petersham:

F p d  
AE 3 o  
1777

Two unmarked boulders apparently designated graves, and in June 1940, there were thirteen bodies removed to Quabbin Park Cemetery in Ware.

## STORIES

In the 1830's and '40's, the stage route from Worcester to Brattleboro, Vt., with Brad. Hodges and Genery Twitchell for drivers, and the route from Springfield to Lowell with a driver by the name of Barrett, intersected on Petersham Common. Barrett was in the habit of throwing a handful of pennies in the road for the boys to scramble for.

It was Artemas Crawl who said he would as soon try to warm his feet against a gravestone as "one of them there new stoves".

While Park Holland and his friend Maynard were surveying the wilderness in Maine in 1794, they were several times faced with starvation, and tho' usually their courage was good, on one occasion Maynard said, "Holland, it is not a very pleasant thought we must starve to death in this wilderness, but to starve with guineas quilted into the waist bands of our trousers, thinking how many good meals they would buy, is too tough".

Dr. Richard Perkins Bridge, who once owned the Simes house, requested that when he died, he should be buried directly opposite his front door, in the Centre Cemetery, and evidently this request was fulfilled as closely as possible.

Forester Goddard, who owned the house now occupied by John Harlow, wished to turn his house one quarter way around so it would face the south instead of the west; so he jacked it up, built the cellar wall, and turned the house, with no other help than what his wife could give him. While digging to reshape the cellar, his son Frank found a half penny dated 1749 with the profile of George II.

Lewis and Oliver Whitney, blacksmiths on Oliver St., shod Dr. Wm. Parkhurst's horses for seventeen years.

Said Oliver to Lewis, "Three pairs of oxen and two horses coming tomorrow to be shod, and not a nail made!"

Although women were not lawfully granted equal suffrage for nearly two hundred years after the settlement of the town occasional glimpses along its history reveals strong minded and determined women who never wavered in carrying out their own convictions. Traditions reveal that both Mrs. Park Holland and Mrs. Daniel Bigelow had the courage to dictate the "shall nots" to the Shays men who

## STORIES

possessed their houses for one memorable night in the absence of their husbands, known to be attending the affairs of government. Mrs. Sarah Howe proved to be one of the strongest allies of Rev. Luther Willson in leading the ladies in benevolent endeavors. During the latter part of the last century, we find Eliza Mudge and Martha Webb carrying worthy objectives through to the finish, and a little later, Emma J. Perry and Olive Crowell of equal determination.

Of no less strength of determination, but of narrower vision, comes the tradition of a Mrs. Ward forbidding her husband to enter their best parlor, until such time as it should be used for either his funeral or hers, and it chanced to be hers; also the story comes to us of Mother Bob Peckham, who once dwelt in the Perkins's house, drawing a chalk line from the centre of the fireplace to a point exactly opposite, sternly forbidding her co-worker to ever trespass beyond that line.

From James A. Rice, whose ancestral possessions extended over into Petersham limits, we learn of Earl Rice and Charles Rice makers of wagons and buggies at an average of 100 a year. When a sufficient number were completed, they were formed in one long line and taken on the road through New Hampshire and Vermont for sale, the trip lasting till the last one was sold. The Rice family also owned flour and grist mills close to the town line and one morning, when about to start the mills for a day's work, word came from the house that two of their toddling children were lost. Fortunately, starting the mills was deferred while the hunt for the children was on, for they had walked through the flume one hundred and fifty feet to the gate.

John Sherman and his neighbor, John Chamberlin, petitioned the town of Petersham to set them off to the town of Barre. John Bowker jokingly asked them, "What if Barre refuses to take you after Petersham has voted you out? Sherman replied, "Well, we would make a very pretty town all by ourselves".

Major Martin Rice, who built the house on Lewis St., opposite Spring St., though his credit was good, joked about his limited supplies by saying he never took much money with him for fear of robbers, nor left much at home for fear the house might burn down.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

J. B. Howe relates that Peter Gore, half White, half Indian, and half carpenter, commented upon a homemade sled belonging to Howe's grandfather, that he would "stump thunder and lightning to slit out another such an ugly one".

When Hannah Bigelow and Emily Holland were "published" in church, they sat with the rest of the congregation instead of with the choir as usual. Rev. Festus Foster surprised them by announcing from the pulpit that "Hannah Bigelow and Emily Holland may return to their seats with the singers". Trembling and blushing they obeyed while the prospective bridegrooms, Dr. William Parkhurst and Nahum Gale, enjoyed the joke.

Before the present Barre road was opened in 1837, Daniel Sargent went into the dense forest southeast of our village to cut his winter's supply of wood. It was such excellent cutting that he folded his overalls and left them with his axe and saw, so he could begin his next day's work where he ended that first day, but search as he did, day after day, he never located the spot.

John Howes, who once lived where the Telephone Company is now located, was called "Dandy Jack" because of his immaculate and dignified appearance. A man of the opposite type asked him, "Where did you get all your money anyway?" His reply was, "Half of it, I obtained by minding my own business and the other half by letting other peoples' business alone".

When Samuel Randall lived in the east part of town, he could step outside his door and see the smoke curling up from the chimneys in the homes of his five married children; Ira, who lived at the corner of Narrow Lane, David who lived on the old Barre Road, Charles who lived on the Carbury place, Emily who was Mrs. Hiram Marsh, and Eliza who was Mrs. Benjamin Rice of Barre.

Edward Bruce Hill relates that when his family came to open the Hill house one summer in the 1870's, one of the first duties was to start the grandfather's clock. While he was winding it, he called to his wife in another room to give him the exact time. She simply replied, "Twenty minutes of five". He adjusted the hands and was about to close the clock when he saw an old wrinkled piece of paper



## STORIES

inside the clock. He smoothed it and discovered written upon it, "Twenty minutes of five!" It was always a mystery who put the paper there or when, or why.

During the time Fannie Gordon Prince was Librarian, two college students spent two weeks in town one winter in search of unusual and unique material for a story they were writing. Entering the Library, they asked if she were in charge there, to which she replied, "Well, I am Miss Prince, the Librarian." In astonishment they exclaimed, "Indeed, it is unusual to find a free and public library governed by misprints (Miss Prince)!"

From an advertisement for the Nichewaug Inn in 1890 we find the following:

"Speaking of the famous letter sent by Sylvanus How and other citizens of Petersham, inviting the inhabitants of Boston to take refuge with them in Petersham in the event of their being driven from their goodly heritages by the voracious jaws of tyranny, not the lion of the English flag but the astronomical lion of July and August temperatures constrains at least some of the people of Boston to favorable consideration of Petersham's historic invitation."

When Samuel J. Frost was to be executed, May 26, 1876, the jailer remarked, "It is a warm sunny morning." To which the victim replied, "Yes, but there will be a Frost in Hell tonight."

J. Benjamin Howe relates the following regarding Col. Ephraim Doolittle: "When appointed Colonel, a number of his friends loaded some muskets, to fire a salute in celebration, partly because he was popular and partly because they knew he would respond liberally with refreshments. Some rogues tampered with the loaded guns, withdrew the charges, substituted ashes, rendering the guns voiceless. The serenaders were disappointed in the effect, they renewed the priming, picked the flints, using the priming wire but to no purpose. Meanwhile subdued expressions of wonder, disgust, and profanity, were heard by the Colonel for the fizzle occurred just outside his bedroom window, and the affair was so ludicrous that the Colonel, as afterwards reported by his wife, nearly had laughing hysterics. As soon as he could compose himself he lighted the candles, opened the

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

door and cordially welcomed his visitors: although the salute was a failure the treat was a success and the reception, warm and cordial."

In 1928, Edward Bruce Hill stated that in the couplet:

"Petersham for beauty,  
Hardwick for pride,  
If it hadn't been for codfish,  
Dana would a died."

Petersham won its credit for beauty on account of Squire Weed's three beautiful daughters; Hardwick its credit for pride on account of that thrilling scene on the bridge, when Timothy Ruggles, a much respected Tory, parted from his Whig brother, Benjamin Ruggles, never to return to the colonies; Dana was snow-bound one severe winter when impassable roads prevented imports, but their supply of codfish carried its inhabitants through the critical period to the spring thaw.

From Norman Hapgood, a grandson of Seth Hapgood, and from Mrs. Benjamin Tufts of Winetka, Ill., a granddaughter of Paul Hildreth, the following story is available:

When Seth Hapgood built his mansion house at the corner of Sunset Lane in 1842 he imported the best of lumber and plenty of it; so that when it was completed, there remained enough material for another house. He presented this extra lumber to his carpenter Joseph G. Parmenter who built for himself a house smaller but similar to the Hapgood mansion and located on West Street at the junction of Lewis Street.

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In the early days of automobiles, there were as many nervous drivers of cars as there were nervous drivers of horses. One day about 1912, a car was parked in the brush beside the Athol road while its driver went to offer his services in leading a frightened horse beside it. But the prominent town official driving the horse replied, "Oh, I can manage the horse all right, but I would appreciate it if you would kindly lead the wife by."

## STORIES

From Marcia G. Clark's Paper on District No. 4. Written in 1921:

The house of Stanislaus Brunelle was a large double one. Later it was divided and a part was moved across the road, and owned by Charles Gates who later sold it to William How, known to every one as "Uncle Bill" and his sister was known as "Aunt Katie". These Hows sold it to Frederick Bryant on his return from the Civil War and his family lived there many years.

The story has been told that when the large house was being built by Oliver Cromwell Gates (who married Mary How, November 3rd, 1805), someone for fun hid hymn books in the walls; these were forgotten and were sealed in and for aught we know, may still be there. This place was built as a sort of tavern where stage coaches stopped.

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The elm tree opposite the Charles Gates house was an old landmark. It was planted by John Gates (father of Charles and grandfather of Charles W.) when he was a young man. The tree was split by a wind and ice storm and an anchor chain was used to prevent it breaking more. The hook broke about 1867 or 1868 and part of the tree was broken by another storm, but the tree grew around the chain and it hung there, an object of curiosity to passing strangers, until the hurricane took it down, September 1938.

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The Quaker Road was named because the largest house on it was owned by Simeon Brewer, familiarly known as "Quaker Brewer". He was an upright but eccentric man. He always visited school on examination days, wearing the regular Quaker garb and sat with his hat on.

One day while riding, his horse became lame, so he called Mr. Joab Young to look at it. No trouble was found, but he said, "What do thee ask?" Mr. Young replied, "Five cents", and this Mr. Brewer paid.

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From Mrs. Holman came this story:—Sarah How was assisted in her farm work one summer by Ithamar Ward, who was selected to

teach the higher branches in school the following winter; he had never studied Latin nor "Colburn's Sequel", the most difficult arithmetic known, so she assisted him in preparing to teach these two branches. Judging from her own account of her education it must have been a case of "Working it out for herself."

During the 1870's, probably in 1876, Mr. and Mrs. John Fiske were visiting the farmhouses in quest of antiques, in one case especially the response was even more than expected, when a sizeable collection was gathered for their admiration, the farmer gleefully said, "There. You never saw anything centennialier than that!"

## RANDOM NOTES

From Peter Whitney's history of Worcester County, published in 1793, we learn that Worcester County was bounded on the west by Hampshire County, but about that time the subject of creating a third county, by taking the northern parts of these two, was being considered, and from our town records, May 9, 1785, the town voted, "to grant the old Meeting House toward building a Court House, provided, Petersham be made the shire town within two years from this date." Worcester County remained intact except the loss of the town of Woodstock to the State of Connecticut, but it was Hampshire County that was divided.

Two of Shays' men were sheltered at the James Rice farm in Barre.

At the time Elizabeth Foster, known as "Mother Goose", was an attendant at the Old South Church in Boston, the minister there was Rev. Samuel Willard, grandfather of the William Willard who settled in Petersham.

The west wall of the village cemetery was laid by Rufus Clement and Forester Goddard in 1876.

In the 1817 town records: "The committee appointed to make an estimate for a Powder House have attended that service and do recommend they build it six by seven feet and six and one half feet high, to be built of wood and we estimate it to cost about fifteen dollars." (This was probably the one that stood on the north side of East Street between Albert Brunelle's and the Jackson place.)

For several years previous to 1870, stone cutters were busy quarrying soap-stones from the mountain of that name southwest of Dana; these stones varying in size from small rectangular blocks two inches by four inches to be used in muffs for keeping hands warm, to those of nine inches by twelve inches in dimension, used in sleighs for foot warmers. Medium sizes were an improvement over the brass warming pans previously used for warming beds. Muff stones were popular engagement presents having initials of the engaged couple cut into opposite edges of the stone.

One of the Annual Festivals of the town from 1910 to 1915 was

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

the fall "side hunt" to which every hunter looked forward with pleasure. The following is an extract from the report of 1912: "The annual side hunt which occurred the last week of October with twenty-four men on each side resulted in Captain Palmer J. Lord's side winning with 4,060 points over Captain George Marsh's side with 3,620 points, the score being closer than usual this year. The turkey and game supper was served at the Petersham House, when the losers paid for the winner's supper, followed by a social dance in the town hall, the music being furnished by Petersham Orchestra."

From 1883 to 1885 the old Cheese Factory building was used by Zina Blackmer as a roller skating rink, 70 feet by 32 feet.

John M. Keaveney related that in the winter of 1889, he had charge of twenty horses and colts, belonging to James W. Brooks and the sixty head of cattle, Jerseys and Guernseys, were taken care of by Hiram Leighton, Joseph Leighton and Benjamin S. Barnes.

Lewis Whitney, town clerk for twenty-six years, gave the clock in the lower town hall to the town, after twenty-five years of service.

### DANIEL WEBSTER VISITS PETERSHAM

On July 4, 1840, enroute from Barre's great celebration on Harrison Hill to a similar one in Northern Vermont, Daniel Webster stopped in Petersham for dinner. A great crowd had gathered to welcome him and at a signal from the chief marshal of the day, Col. Josiah White, there arose a mighty cheer accompanied by a waving of handkerchiefs. The story has often been told that Mr. Webster left his hat on a table in the hall when he went to the dining-room in the hotel. Dr. Taylor tried it on his own head, and "only his shoulders prevented its going down to his feet", but it was found to exactly fit the head of Phineas Barr.

A free dinner was served the entire crowd in a field back of the present Orthodox Church where a log cabin had been placed. Mrs. Capt. Joseph Brown had the honor of presenting a cake to the noted orator and upon the menu, appeared roast coon and cider.

From a jotted note, a Barre man gives us a hint. Political differences waxed hot. It was Genery Twitchell that drove the stage

## RANDOM NOTES

bringing Daniel Webster to Barre, but at the last moment he remembered the importance of meeting a friend out of town, so it was Petersham's own townsman, Brad. Hodges, that "handled the ribbons over the eight spirited horses" that took him through Petersham.

Tradition has it that the bouquet of flowers, presented to Mr. Webster by the townspeople, was tossed by him to Lydia Weed, who possibly attracted his eye because of her beauty and popularity.

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When Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fiske were in the Nichewaug Inn, Mr. Fiske was asked his opinion in regard to folks returning to Petersham. "What is it's charm?" His answer was: "It is a good clean town. There is no back side to it. Every street is a respectable place to live, and all it's people are worthwhile acquaintances."

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John Chandler, distinguished Tory of the Revolution, buried in Puddington Churchyard, Islington, England, has this inscription on his tomb:

"Here lies the body of John Chandler Esquire, formerly of Worcester, Massachusetts, Bay Colony, North America, who died 26th September, 1800 in the 80th year of his age."

There is a tradition that Phineas Barr built the mahogany pulpit in the Unitarian Church.

Tradition hints of the "Red Mitten Club" enjoyed by the ladies living on Nichewaug Hill in the 1870's, who called themselves The R. M's.

On Dec. 17th, 1920, Mrs. John W. Harlow organized The Birthday Club with seven members; this number increased to sixteen members, each taking her turn as hostess on her own birthday, when all contributed to the lunches and an afternoon or evening of sociability. This club had an active existence of about fifteen years.

The Darn Stocking Club was organized by Mrs. Herman Bryant about 1923, where the teachers and their close associates combined business with pleasure.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Dictionary of  
American Biography  
Vol. III  
Editor Allen Johnson  
Charles Scribner's Sons  
Publishers  
1929

William Austin Burt, June 13, 1792-August 18, 1858. Son of Alvin and Wealth (Austin) Burt, (married in Taunton, Oct. 12, 1729\*) 7th generation from Richard Burt who settled in Taunton about 1634. Born in Petersham on his father's farm. When 10 (6?) years old family moved to Freehold, N. Y. Married Phoebe Cole 1813 and settled in Wales about 20 miles from Buffalo. Moved his family to Macomb County, Michigan, 1824, not far from Detroit. Engaged in Surveying. "It was during this time that he conceived the idea of a writing machine. This he perfected and called 'the Typographer'; receiving United States Patent No. 259, July 23, 1859. This invention is recognized today as the ancestor of the typewriter."

In 1856 invented the "Solar Compass" an instrument to determine the time meridian by a single observation of the sun. "It was adopted by the U. S. Government for use in surveying public domains and has so been used to the present time."

"Early Days in New England Life. Times  
of Henry Burt of Springfield and  
some of his Descendants"

Pages 523-529

by Henry M. & Silas W. Burt, Springfield

Charles W. Buyan Co., Printers

1893.

This is substantially the same as the Dictionary only it gives his age as 6 when the family moved to N. Y. and is in much more detail.

\*It would seem this date of 1729 may be an error for 1789.



## BELLS

The Paul Revere Bell was presented to the town for the church that stood in the centre of the village green, by Eleazer Bradshaw, a prosperous hatter. It was hung in the belfry November 28th, 1792, although there was some opposition as being too extravagant and secular. The story goes that Jeraph Wilder so strongly harbored this opposition as to remark that he hoped it would break when it was "tollled" for him. He was but mortal, and when the time came for tolling his knell, his son-in-law, Tom Brown, rushed to the belfry with his sledge hammer, and in his anxiety to "make the old man hear it in which ever place he was" he struck the bell too near the rim and cracked it. As the name of Jeraph Wilder does not appear in the vital records and the wife of Thomas Brown appears as Lydia McClellan instead of a Wilder, probably the narrator was confused but the fact remains that the bell was cracked from some force or other and was recast and hung for the second time in the belfry in 1798. The centennial of this replacement was celebrated on July 4th, 1898, when John Fiske related a most interesting account of the Revere family on that Sunday afternoon in the Unitarian Church to a packed house, with chairs in the aisles, and with a temperature of above ninety.

The Revere Bell was lost in the fire which consumed the church September 21st, 1908, and recovered fragments were fashioned into the marker on the memorial pew in the new church and other fragments were melted into the new bell, the gift of Ruth Mudge Rogers, which was hung in the new church October 12, 1909.

The bell in the Universalist Church was purchased by a Mr. Stowell and Major Aaron Brooks. When the minister, Rev. John Willis, retired from preaching here to go to Brattleboro, Vermont, a portion of his salary was still due him so he sold his claim on the church to a Brattleboro man who came and took the bell under protest. Although a host of defenders appeared with loud talk and pitchforks, the claimant climbed the lightning rod and removed the bell to Brattleboro.

The bell placed on the first north school-house in the late 1790's,

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

by John and Nathaniel Chandler, served its purpose for several years there and was taken by Nathaniel when he went to Lancaster to live some twenty-five years later. James Brooks endeavored to locate it that it might be placed on the new centre school-house building in 1906, but no trace of it could be found.

On March 19th, 1853, the town voted to accept the town house bell from Joel Chamberlain. It became cracked and was recast in 1865. The condition upon which it was presented to the town was that it should be rung at twelve o'clock noon and at nine o'clock P. M. six days in the week.

The history of the bell in the North Church has not been found so the inference is made that it was purchased by that society when the church was built.

## Local Names and Points of Interest

*"We often think of beautiful Petersham."*—Louis D. Brandeis.

FROG STREET, or East St., named for a man who kept the Corner Store, John Haskins, nicknamed John Frog.

PUCKER STREET or SOUTH STREET, named for the aristocracy that once lived there; the Whitneys, Reeds, Prestises, and McCartys.

LEWIS STREET, north end of Hardwick road, named in honor of Lewis Curtis who once lived there.

OLIVER STREET, named for Oliver Whitney who once lived there and had a blacksmith shop.

SPRING STREET, crosses a section of never failing springs.

GOOSE LANE or SUNSET LANE, intersects the Athol road on the west side and near the village, was probably one of the original thoroughfares of the town.

NARROW LANE, a section of road leading from the Hubbardston road, three and one-half miles east of Petersham center, to the south end of Queen Lake, Phillipston (Formerly known as Phillipston Pond).

WHITE HORSE LANE, section of discontinued road connecting the two Hardwick roads.

QUAKER DRIVE, section of road connecting the Hubbardston road, two miles east of center, with the Barre road two miles south east of village. Quakers once lived on this road.

BIRCH DRIVE or BLISS ROAD, section of road connecting the lower Athol road, two miles northwest of village with the Millington road near the first west school house, the only house on this road was once occupied by Calvin Bliss.

MONSON TURNPIKE, the section in Petersham extends from the Dana line below the Brad. Hodge's corner, and runs due north to Athol crossing the "Old Robinson Road" near the Lot Stone place, the North New Salem road at Gales Corner, and the South Athol road at the Holmes Willard corner, half a mile beyond this Willard corner, it joins the lower Athol road.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

NICHEWAUG LANE, extends west of the Athol road, just north of the "Inn", runs straight west, past the Furness cottage till it intersects the woods road from Sunset Lane to West Street, private way.

CREEK ROAD, section of road which extends from Hubbardston road two and one-half miles east of village near the old Bryant tannery, runs north to the road leading from Petersham to Templeton.

GLEN DRIVE, the road from Nichewaug village to the Barre State road near the town line.

CAMEL'S HUMP DRIVE, section of road from the corner, on the west end of the first west cemetery, runs south by the Giles Shattuck place near Ayers' Mill, over the two hills called "Camel's Hump", to the Pluff place, thence over the Dugway road to the west Hardwick road two miles southwest of Petersham village.

DUGWAY, a section of road leading to North Dana, from the Elmer Towne place. It has been said that this road was once so narrow, that if a team met a rabbit there would not be room enough to pass until one or the other backed out.

THE SQUARE or OLD MAID'S MILE, the scant mile walk, including South Main St., Spring St., Lewis St., and West St.

THE FIRST FLATIRON, includes mile walk, on South Main St. Oliver St., and East St.

SECOND FLATIRON, South Main St., Russell road, Barre road, about three miles.

OLD ROBINSON ROAD, discontinued section from the Birch Drive near the lower Athol road to the Monson Turnpike; this road once extended to the North New Salem road below Gale's Corner, near Hager's Corner.

UNDERGROUND SPRING, in a lot near the south end of the Creek road on the land once owned by the Stevens family, later the Glasheen farm. Tradition claims this spring and underground passage was used in troublous times with Indians, but universal opinion is that a house was once built above this spring and the cellar hole was only partially filled.

TOM'S SWAMP, Northwest section of town at upper end of

## LOCAL NAMES AND POINTS OF INTEREST

Meadow-water, crossed by a causeway. Tradition says a man once lost his life in the swamp, and as his name was Tom it has since been known as Tom's Swamp.

THOUSAND ACRE SWAMP, a portion of swamp in the extreme easterly corner of the town, it extends into the borders of the adjoining towns.

CHIMNEY HILL, two miles east of the village, south of the Hubbardston road and east of the Quaker road. A magnificent view from the top, repays the climb. Interesting caves on the north side. Levi and Joab Young, stone cutters, took valuable blocks of granite from Chimney Hill.

MANN HILL, two miles north of the village, at the end of "Petersham Street". Named for William Mann, who once lived in the red house at the top.

SHERMAN HILL, next south of Chimney Hill, named for John Sherman who once lived on its summit.

ROSS HILL, in the southern portion of the town, rising rather abruptly from Swift River, near Carter's Mills.

NICHEWAUG HILL, according to Mr. E. B. Willson, this is the name of the hill where the Negus family lived, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Babbitt.

LORING HILL, next hill south of Sherman Hill and east of Connor's Pond; William Willard Loring once lived near the top.

BENNETT HILL, between the present Harvard Forestry School and the French place. The school house in District No. 3, was first built on this hill and known as the Bennett Hill School, probably named from John Bennett one of the original proprietors.

TOWER'S HILL, the hill on the west side of the village, from the Unitarian Parsonage to Oren Tower's place at the foot. The Tower house was burned in the early 1890's.

WARD HILL, the hill about three-fourths of a mile northwest of village, on the road which branches from the Athol road near the "Joe Hines tannery" place now owned by Mrs. John M. Woolsey. Probably named for Daniel S. Ward who lived in the large white house on the summit, burned about 1914.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

THOUSAND ACRE HILL, referred to several times in the Proprietor's records when laying out of lots on the west side of the town, and is evidently what is now called Ball Hill, east of the Birch Drive.

SACKETT'S HARBOR, situated about a mile southeast of the village on Swift River, on a discontinued road that runs from the Daniel Spooner place, now John B. Paine's through the Cornell and Dudley farms to Willsons' Pond on the Hubbardston road. Supposed to have received its name from a colored family named Sackett, who lived in the Cornell House, and the semi-circular course of Swift River as it flows through the meadow above the bridge.

POPLE CAMP, name given School District No. 11 on the Templeton road about two miles northeast of Petersham village. Pople Camp Brook flows into Swift River.

"THE FACTORY", "FACTORY VILLAGE", names given the village three miles south of the center of the town on account of the several mills on that section of Swift River, especially the woolen factory just below Parlin's bridge, which was an important industry about the middle of the last century. About 1890, it received the official Post Office name of "Nichewaug", the mail coach driven by Levi Newton running daily from North Dana to Barre.

SLAB CITY and WILLIAM'S CITY, names given School District No. 12, near Connor's Pond. The names were given from the fact that Avery Williams ran a very busy saw mill in this locality and with his three sons owned several houses in this valley.

LEDGEVILLE, name given School District No. 4 from the fact that the school house is now located on a large ledge. In Revolutionary times the school house was located on the site of the Upton house, now Mrs. Ferguson's and claimed by Thomas Beaman the Tory, to be on his land. The school was taught by Master Ensign Mann, an ardent revolutionist, who found the entrance barricaded one morning by the aforesaid Beaman. When Sylvanus How brought his daughter Sarah to school on horseback and found the door locked with "Master Mann" on the outside, they proceeded to "break in", and school continued. Benjamin Howe is the authority

## LOCAL NAMES AND POINTS OF INTEREST

for the above location. Rev'd. E. B. Willson records it as standing about seventy rods *east* of the Artemas Bryant place, now George B. Gale's.

PILFERSHARE, name referred to in the town records for the locality set off to the town of Dana about 1802.

THREE PENNY MORRIS, name of a hill in the southwest section of town. The road from the Snow Cemetery, west over the hill was discontinued about 1855. Tradition: That a man named Morris bought the hill at three cents per acre.

SPRING LOT, name given the lot west of the Furness and Hapgood cottages where there is a valuable spring.

PETER GORE'S SPRING, name given the spring on the north side of the Templeton road, half mile east of the Deer Farm. Peter Gore, the half breed, lived in this locality. For many years there was a watering trough filled from this spring.

STONE WATERING TROUGH, half a mile from village on lower Athol road, moved there by Sam. Neal under the direction of James W. Brooks; the boulder was moved to its present location from a spot directly east of it and not many feet away, about 1893.

INDIAN CAMP, the portion of the town between Sputtermill Brook and the town boundaries of New Salem and Athol. During the middle of the last century this was quite a thickly populated section; one who remembers, says there were not less than twenty-five cellar holes, within half a mile of Danford Bosworth's mill site. Names of some of these families were Cutter, Ramsdell, Young, Giles, Forbes, Hatstat.

MOCCASIN BROOK, in the easterly part of town near the Creek road flows on the north side of Chimney Hill across the Quaker road and into Swift River below Sackett's Harbor.

SWIFT RIVER, east branch rises in the borders of Phillipston, flows within a mile of Petersham village, easterly crossing the Hubbardston road near the Capt. Brown place, two and one-half miles south of village crossing the Barre State road at Connor's Pond, flows through the entire length of Nichewaug village, once having many mills in this section.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

FEVER BROOK, in the westerly part of the town crosses the Millington road near the present residence of Mr. Chism formerly the Davenport place, then flows through Ayers' Pond.

CUT THROAT BROOK, crosses the Athol State road near the Petersham and Athol town line on the hill near the Battersby place, later Judge Duncan's.

PARLIN or McMANUS BROOK, follows the Barre, Petersham State road and crosses it three-fourths of a mile north of the town line. Named for the owners of the nearest residences. A beauty spot of the town.

SPUTTER MILL, name given the shingle mill located on the Monson Turnpike a few rods south of the four corners made by the crossing of the Old Robinson road; the brook upon which it was located bears the name of Sputtermill Brook, crosses the Millington road at the foot of the Jonas Bancroft hill, an excellent trout brook.

ROARING BROOK, rises north of the summer residence of the Misses Clara and Virginia Hodges, crosses the Athol road near the Catholic Church, and the Hubbardston road, three-fourths of a mile east of the village of Petersham, thence into Swift River below Brown's Pond. The name is derived from the thundering noise as it rushes over the ledges in the last half mile of its course.

RUTLAND BROOK, a wild and picturesque stream, rushing down the north side of Sherman Hill. It was probably on this stream that Jonathan Prescott, Joseph Whitcomb, Jonathan and Daniel Houghton built the earliest grist and saw mills, agreed to sell "good pitch pine boards for forty shilling a thousand" or to saw "to the halves" for all persons who should bring logs to their mill. At the foot of Sherman Hill, Rutland Brook takes an interesting course through the Stone Intervale finally flowing into Swift River just above Connor's Pond.

SILVER BROOK, rises on the east side of Ross Hill, flows north crossing the Glen Drive near the "sand bank", and flows into Swift River.

CAMPFIELD BROOK, rises east of the John Smith place now



## LOCAL NAMES AND POINTS OF INTEREST

owned by Mr. Henry J. Green of Worcester, flows southerly, crossing the Nichewaug road near the Hill house, flows into Swift River just above Parlin's Mill. (Said to be Indian camping ground.)

BELL ROCK, is on the north side of Chimney Hill, not far from the Eber Hapgood place.

ROCKING STONE or "TEETER ROCK", on Ross Hill, about a quarter of a mile west of Cellar Hole No. 108.

INDIAN GRINDING STONE, about three hundred feet east of the Charles Dudley place near Sackett's Harbor, a few feet west of the Dudley-Hapgood line wall.

BROWN'S or WILLSON'S POND, one mile east of Petersham Center, on Swift River.

BROOK'S, WILLIAMS, or CONNOR'S POND, two and one-half miles southeast of village on Barre State road.

MEADOW-WATER, a mile northwest of Petersham Center, formerly called Martin White's Pond on the "Lincoln Meadow".

DEVIL'S DEN and RUM ROCK, located on the flat east of the Willard Loring place on Loring Hill. Devil's Den in the ledge on the north side of the road and Rum Rock on the south side; tradition states that some one tried to put a barrel of rum on the rock but the barrel sprung a leak and the rum was lost. A popular rendezvous for hunters, near the Barre line, so near the town line that these two interesting places may be within the borders of Barre.

"THE GREAT WAY", three mile section of extra wide road among the earliest Proprietor's records, extending from the "Benjamin elm", now the corner by the Ganson farm, to the top of Mann Hill, now the Petersham Country Club. Aged and historic elm trees, on each side are fast disappearing.

BUTTERCUP LANE, runs east from the rear of the Catholic Church; tradition claims that John Chandler, Jr., started here to build a road to Boston in an air line.

"CALIFORNIA", a section of wood road following Swift River from the bridge on the Barre Road to Butler's bridge on the Glen Drive.

NATURAL BRIDGE, on the discontinued road from the Snow

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

Cemetery over "Thripenny", about half a mile from cemetery.

DAVENPORT'S POND, in the extreme north end of the town, on the west side of the Athol State road.

TURKEY HILL, on the West Hardwick road in the village of Nichewaug, bounded by Turkey Hill Brook.

MONUMENT erected to the *memory of John Fiske*, the world famous historian. The lower part of the monument represents chaos, above which is a perfect world and above that is the flame of knowledge. The Latin inscription translated means, "Learn as though to live always; live as though to die tomorrow".

STONY BROOK, on the Templeton road a few rods west of the farm owned by Horace Coolidge; referred to in the town records of 1757 when a road was accepted by the town, "Running from the road to Narragansett No. 6, 21 rods east of the bridge over Stony Brook to Samuel Frizzle's land".

"LION'S DEN", in one of the low range hills east of the road from Nichewaug to Hardwick. The ledge at the top of the hill forms a miniature cliff not more than ten or fifteen feet in height. In front of this is natural arch of stone so placed that one can walk along the top of it from one end to the other or may climb or slide under and behind the arch. Trees hide it from the road and it is best approached from the bar-way opposite the house of the late William Brown.

INDIAN'S CAVE and FIREPLACE. Not far west of the house now owned by Miss Mary McEvoy; on the north side of the road, a huge boulder leans against the ledge, leaving a space into which one may look or even crawl if one wishes to do so. Near by is a niche in the rock resembling a fireplace, and accordingly called "Indian's Fireplace."

TURKEY HILL BROOK rises about a mile south of the Petersham Common between the two Hardwick roads, flows south to Turkey Hill then west under the west Hardwick road, following the western base of the hill, southward crossing the Dana road near the Asa Snow place and flowing into Swift River on the south side of Turkey Hill, referred to in the earliest deeds of the town and a hundred years later, the southern portion of it was known as Carter Brook, after

## LOCAL NAMES AND POINTS OF INTEREST

Hosea Carter had built two houses near it.

"BEAVER HOLE" is a swampy area, south of the Hubbardston road, two and half miles east of Petersham village.

FISHER MEMORIAL. About three hundred feet south of the east end of the Causeway across the upper end of Tom's Swamp, is the Memorial tablet on a huge boulder, placed in memory of Richard Thornton Fisher with the following inscription: "Richard Thornton Fisher, 1876-1934, sagacious student of nature, teacher of men, staunch idealist, and sympathetic friend, director of the Harvard Forest for twenty-seven years. He taught us the art of forestry in harmonious relation with nature. Placed by his students on this spot he greatly loved 1935."

CENTER of TOWN. There is a tradition that the exact geographical center of the town is marked by the huge boulder, close to the house of Mrs. Lillian M. Douthit on West Street.

LITTLE NORWAY is the Hardwick road, beginning with the residence of Louis I. Nelson, and ending with that of Mrs. John Tucker.

HOW ROAD extends from the Hubbardston road near Avery Johnson's place north to Frank A. Coolidge's place originally belonging to Sylvanus How.

WINE BROOK crosses Hubbardston road near the town line. referred to in deeds of the early Wilder and Bouker families.

WOLF HILL is located on Narrow Lane. From the top of this hill can be seen the entire Thousand Acre Swamp in which is located the corner post of three towns. It is on the east side of the road and borders in the Phillipston line.

CLAY-PIT, the first brick-making establishment in town located on the hill in the rear of Judge Woolsey's house, obtained its clay from the pit on the left hand side of the sharp curve east of the Catholic Church.

PIRATEVILLE. From "The Road Through Pirate Valley", by Julie Sherman in 1931, we learn that the three stalwart sons of Avery Williams, Fred, Walter, and Seth, were once the little pirates of the valley, playing practical jokes on their neighbors, stealing

apples, chasing horses in the pasture. Often they went up the hill to steal walnuts on the Stevens place only to find the Stevens boys filling their baskets from the Williams' chestnut trees!

THE QUABBIN DRIVE of 1940 is the sixty mile drive from the corner of the Barre-Hardwick roads, on Route 122 to the "Daniel Shays" Highway, thence to Belchertown, on Route 202, thence across the Quabbin dam to Ware, thence to Hardwick, thence to Petersham.

## PETERSHAM WEATHER

According to Henry Cook, the oracle of his day, to ascertain the number of snowstorms expected in any winter, add the days of the week, the month and the moon, and then the sum thereof will be a dependable forecast. For example: If the first snow-fall, (It must be sufficient to track a cat) occurs on Wednesday, the 21st, in the first quarter of the moon (ten days old) in all, four, twenty-one and ten, and the sum of thirty-five, will be the number of snowstorms one may reasonably expect during that winter. The townspeople for many years put their confidence in this rule of computation, and as late as the present year (1940) there are many citizens who pin their faith to it.

Although the town is by no means immune from the freaks and extremes of the proverbial New England weather, it does seem to be happily situated to escape much that befalls other sections of New England; far enough inland to escape most of the tropical storms that sweep up along the Atlantic coast from the West Indies and usually off the path of those arising in the northwest or lake region. Our severest storms are mostly from the northeast, though high winds reaching gale velocity sometimes come from the west or southwest.

Situated near the sources of its rivers, and mostly on high land, the town is spared all menace from floods except an occasional loss of bridges. Severe electric storms accompanied by high wind and hail usually follow the rivers to the north or south of town, though this does not always happen. The many natural, never failing, springs tend to alleviate the drouth menace considerably. The thermometer usually registers about five degrees cooler in Petersham than official Boston temperatures and vegetation is two weeks later starting in the spring than in the coastal areas.

Approximate normal temperatures for Petersham range from zero to thirty-five degrees above zero for winter, and the summer temperatures ranging from fifty-five to eighty-five degrees above zero. Extreme temperatures have been noted as follows: 1816 was the year so often referred to as the year "Eighteen hundred and froze to death", when ice formed and snow fell every month during the year,

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

preventing the growth of all crops; Mr. Charles K. Wilder writes that the summer of 1859 was similar to 1816, though not so severe. The Fourth of July in 1859 was cold enough to form ice as thick as window glass and crops were a failure. Another diary informs us that on February 7, 1855, the thermometer registered 22 degrees below zero. The winter of 1873-1874 was the hardest winter recorded for both snow and cold weather. The extreme cold of 1898-1899 kept the sleighing from November to early May. On February 14th, 1907 the temperature tumbled to twenty-two degrees below zero and again in 1917. In 1933 winter began November 20th with snow and low temperatures, causing cellars to freeze in December when on the 26th, twenty degrees below zero was registered and in the three following days it did not rise to zero.

Mr. Wilder also writes of the snow storm of April 21st, 1857 when Elmer Bliss of Brattleboro, Vermont, came to Petersham for his marriage with Elizabeth Goddard, daughter of Ashbel Goddard who lived two miles south of the village on the West Hardwick Road. In Athol he hired a horse and chaise but was obliged to leave them at the top of Mann Hill going the rest of the way on foot, arriving at his destination about midnight. In the winter of 1873-1874 there were five months and sixteen days of sleighing; in April four feet and two inches of snow fell and no rain.

Although the blizzard of 1888 is always referred to as the worst storm ever, in March, 1916, the two storms, March 2nd, and March 10th, accumulated twenty-six and one-half inches of snow piled in drifts nearly as formidable as those in the 1888 storm.

On March 8th, 1931 a heavy fall of snow began about noon and two hours later, near the top of Mann Hill, two automobiles collided with sufficient force to turn them crosswise the road facing each other. One car was damaged to the extent of being unable to move under its own power and the few minutes required for moving it and the necessary shovelling was enough to allow snow accumulation sufficient to delay traffic, while other cars coming from both directions added seriousness to the situation. The great snow plow broke down while attempting to pass the stalled Worcester bus, finishing all hope for re-



These two cars started the trouble.



A broken snow plow and stalled Worcester bus caused a traffic jam.



A few of the marooned men wondering how to get home.

Storm of March 8, 1931.





## PETERSHAM WEATHER

lief until the following afternoon. The night found forty cars marooned between the Deer Farm and the top of Mann Hill. About thirty people were sheltered in the Police Barracks on Spring Street and as many more made merry at the Waldo cottage. West Road Inn and Richardson Lodge were filled to the limit while others depended on friendly neighbors. Seven spent the night at Wayside Farm where Mrs. George Wilder loaned the use of her telephone throughout the night for relieving tense situations, while during the twenty-four hours she served forty or more emergency lunches.

Of the severe rain storms the ones of November 26, 1898 and March 13th, 1936 will be long remembered. The ice storm of November 28, 1921, ruined many of the beautiful shade trees. The hail storms of June 25th, 1891 and August 4th, 1910 ruined the fruit and garden crops entirely. Many severe electric storms have damaged property and cost lives of both people and animals. In March about 1860, Mr. William Goddard lost his horse by a bolt of lightning while driving on the hill south of the present Newberry place. Wind sometimes reaches a velocity of sixty or seventy miles an hour with apparently nothing to stop it between Graylock and Wachusett.

The year 1937 was so unusually warm the high and low temperatures of each month are interesting. No snow shovelling of any kind was needed in Petersham, as not more than two inches of snow was on the ground at any time.

Month	Highest temperature	Lowest temperature
January . . . . .	64 degrees . . . . .	15 degrees
February . . . . .	56 " . . . . .	10 "
March . . . . .	57 " . . . . .	15 "
April . . . . .	71 " . . . . .	31 "
May . . . . .	93 " . . . . .	42 "
June . . . . .	95 " . . . . .	53 "
July . . . . .	99 " . . . . .	55 "
August . . . . .	98 " . . . . .	57 "
September . . . . .	93 " . . . . .	45 "
October . . . . .	74 " . . . . .	32 "
November . . . . .	66 " . . . . .	23 "
December . . . . .	50 " . . . . .	16 "

# THE BLIZZARD

Harking back to that stormy day in 1888, known throughout New England as "The Blizzard", the voters of today feel deep appreciation for the valor and discretion of two high school boys who later became prominent citizens, and carried the responsibilities of the Town's affairs with good judgement and the same inborn discretion. On the morning of March 12, 1888, Daniel Broderick walked to school on bare ground from his home two miles away, and when school was dismissed in the afternoon he took his mail and started to walk home, but changed his mind within fifty rods of the Post Office, and struggled back to the warm hospitality of the Petersham House with frost-bitten cheeks. On the evening of the next day he accompanied Dr. Martin on his visit to Henry Ashford, who was critically ill with pneumonia. Dr. Martin improvised some snow shoes by strapping the sides of his wheelbarrow to his feet for the trip of over a mile.

Ernest Phillips came to school on horseback from his home at the Hildreth farm and was confident the faithful animal would make the return trip successfully, starting from the horse sheds with amazing courage. Within a few rods the huge drifts and freezing wind persuaded him to accept the friendly assistance of other boys in getting to the shelter afforded by Landlord Barnes.

At the time school was dismissed the snow was so blinding that keeping to a path was difficult, almost impossible. George H. Kelton the High School principal, and Louis Coolidge led the way in piloting eight of the young ladies down East Street to the homes of Joseph Carpenter, Louis Coolidge, and Hiram Leighton. Only by clutching the coats in front, and by keeping a single line was it possible to reach their destination. One of the procession of five going down South Street, fainted on arriving at her home at the foot of the hill.

Many parents became extremely anxious for the welfare of their children when it was impossible to hear from them for three days. James Burnes started about noon with his horse and sleigh for his son and daughter, but on the Barre Road he had to abandon the sleigh, and managed to return home in safety on horseback. George Prouty,

## *BLIZZARD*

living two miles west of the village, was one of the first to reach it on foot, on Thursday, in quest of his son and daughter, he improvised snow shoes to top the hard-packed drifts.

George Gibbs managed to get through with the mail from Athol before the storm became too severe, but it was three days before the road was opened to the Athol line. Some of the drifts on Petersham Street to the top of Mann Hill, were even with the second story windows. A drift in front of the Petersham House was tunneled, and adults passed through it without stooping.

# HURRICANE

September 21, 1938

As 1937 had been a year of unusual heat so the year of 1938 had been a year with an unusual fall of rain. Two storms in the month of July, each lasting four days and four nights of continual downpour, had damaged the hay crop and blighted many vegetables. On July 29, 1938, seven inches of rain fell in twelve hours. August was a wet month, although the storms were of shorter duration. On Friday, September 16th, began the long "Equinoxial", continuing until about ten o'clock A. M. on Tuesday, the twentieth, when the sun shone out clear and hot. The flood damage had been great, the "water table" was at the earth's surface, the ground so completely saturated with water it could absorb no more. The bridges on the Quaker Drive, the Glen Road, and in Nichewaug were all washed away, and the river at Willson's Pond was flowing around both ends of the bridge; a portion of the new piece of Hardwick Road below Parlin's bridge was washed away, making it impassable. For about three hours the sun shone clear and hot, and many pictures were taken of the flood damage that equalled that of March 1936; then clouds gathered and the rain fell fast as ever until just before noon on Wednesday, September 21st. Again the skies cleared, and at three o'clock P. M. the folks of Petersham walked the streets, enjoying a perfect summer day, while at that moment the oncoming hurricane was taking its terrible toll of 682 lives on the South Shore of New England! An hour later our townspeople realized an unusual storm was brewing. For two hours it raged. Windows crashed, doors blew in or went sailing off, roofs trembled, wavered, and came off, shutters and piazza chairs were blown so far away they were never found, chimneys toppled on crashing roofs. Trees bent lower and lower, then in despair turned up their heels, taking with them the wires of the telephone and electric light. Chicken houses were turned end over end, several times shingles and slate blew from roofs like flocks of pigeons; all this accompanied with the worst downpour of rain, mixed with sand, and leaves. Many people were sure they felt earthquake shocks but the falling trees and wind-shaken houses have accounted for these.



Entrance to the Barre Woods before and after the hurricane, September 1938.



## HURRICANE

All roads were impassable, either from fallen trees or flood damage but the Athol Road was opened within twenty-four hours, and the new road connecting the Daniel Shay's Highway soon after. So on Friday, September 23rd, the traffic over Route 2 was re-routed through Petersham because of flood conditions in Athol and Orange. It took fifty-five men two whole days to chop a single lane from Petersham to Barre. Then the fire hazard was so great through the four miles of what had been wooded area, it was two weeks before cars were allowed to go through except on urgent business. It was estimated that more than thirty million feet of lumber was blown down in Petersham during this storm, owing to the heavy tops catching the violent wind and the water-filled earth yielding the roots. The buildings, especially those painted white, looked as though they had been scorched by fire, because of the mash, composed of pulverized leaves, sap, and sand, that was beaten into the paint by the wind.

Although violent winds and rains have before visited New England, no authentic record of anything that equalled this hurricane has before happened here, and the accounts from the local papers are interesting. Hurricanes that start in the West Indies, either blow out to sea or hit Florida or Texas if blown landward. E. Burton Rideout, radio meteorological commentator, explains that the warm moist atmosphere of New England attracted it to our section.

The Boston paper of Monday, September 19th, carried the weather news that a hurricane disturbance was in formation off the east coast of Florida travelling westward at the rate of forty miles an hour, likely to hit Miami, Florida, on the following morning but owing to the moisture and heat conditions of New England, it took a sharp eastward turn off the Florida coast. The next report at three A. M. Wednesday morning, September 21st, showed that the storm was 225 miles east of Virginia. About three P. M. it hit Long Island in full force, causing the "tidal" or "storm wave" on the Connecticut and Rhode Island coasts that cost six hundred and eighty-two lives, made a thousand people homeless and cost hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage. Most of the storm's fury was spent in the three

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

southern New England states, though Vermont and New Hampshire were somewhat damaged, the disturbance ending in Quebec. The instruments in Boston indicated ninety miles an hour and it probably was not less than that in Petersham; the storm's path was bounded by the Berkshires on the west. Most of the state of Maine was unaffected on the east. The storm reached its peak at seven o'clock P. M.

From an article in Harper's Monthly, January 1939, by John Q. Stewart, Associate Professor of Astronomical Physics in Princeton University, we take the following data:

Hurricanes are formed in a narrow belt near the equator, the doldrums, where the air is the most stagnant on this planet; hurricanes require humid air for their sustenance and it may have been the already soaking ground across New England which conserved this one's force to points so far inland, for as a rule hurricanes weaken over land. The vapory ground, sodden from a rainy summer, was ready to nourish this one as dreadfully as though New England had been the Caribbean Sea.

Days before, while the fledgeling hurricane was still sweeping northwestward from its nest in the doldrums, experienced Florida had prepared for it, but it had curved northeastward still on the sea. The hurricane all along its course was a major one, even while in southern waters where the cruise liner, Carinthia, went through it on Monday.

The southeast wind preceded the blow and accompanied it but it was followed by a change of the wind from the west. The rapid northern advance of the storm had shortened its duration. Instead of the twelve hours of maximum tempest which Miami would have had, New England had only four or five hours of its severity and the whole duration of the blow was, perhaps, twenty hours.

During the night, Tuesday, the weather map showed the hurricane to be moving northward at the rate of thirty-five miles an hour and at 8:30 A. M. on Wednesday it was twenty miles east of Cape Hatteras. At 1:30 P. M. the warning went out from New York City, that a hurricane center would pass over Long Island and Connecticut late that afternoon or night accompanied by shifting gales. At 3:30



## HURRICANE

P. M. the Boston weather bureau issued a mild warning at the time the blasts of terror and forty foot storm waves struck the southern coasts of Long Island, Rhode Island, and Cape Cod, and it ceased soon after midnight above the Canadian border with seven states and the Province of Quebec counting close to seven hundred fatalities.

The disaster was three-fold. First, over sea beaches storm waves, few in number but towering forty feet high swept everything before them. Second, terrific winds carried destruction far inland. Third, torrential rains swelled streams, already flooding from earlier downpours. The worst of the storm, at many points along the northern coasts coincided with the local hour of high tide, with the moon only twenty-eight hours short of new. The New England hurricane stands fourth in regard to its destruction of human life among similar storms in the United States; and as regards property damage, (several hundred millions dollars,) it is the worst in all history.

From August to November is the season for West Indian hurricanes and many have penetrated the north before. The list of Ivan Ray Tannehill, the Marine Meteorologist of the weather bureau includes the others since 1900 which reached New England with a velocity of seventy-five miles per hour which is the threshold of devastation:

June 30, 1902.

September 15, 1904.

September 16, 1912.

October 1, 1920.

October 3, 1929.

August 24, 1933.

September 9, 1934.

The Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, near Boston, successfully measured winds of a velocity of 186 miles per hour.

The report of the Athol Chapter of the Red Cross stated that 62 homes in Petersham, damaged by the hurricane of 1938, were paid for by the Red Cross.

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The freaks of 1940 weather began February 22nd with an im-

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

mensely heavy snow storm that remained on the ground until the middle of April, delaying the opening of spring fully two weeks. The spring was unusually cold and damp, although the actual rainfall was no more than average, and the summer drouth was less severe than in the previous year. On August 24th a light frost was seen in the uplands, and in the lowlands it was severe enough to cause some damage. After eight months of uncertain and disappointing weather, September made amends by giving the countryside many balmy days of sunshine.

# TREES

Among the sterner traits required of pioneers  
Our ancestors revealed a love of trees,  
A love of beauty, clearly manifest  
In stately elms and shapely maples tall;  
They wisely planted many trees for us,  
And for those yet to come!

Cleonice Stone Warren.

There have been several individual trees in Petersham worthy of note for different reasons.

In 1746, Joab Miles brought an elm from his farm in the east part of town, and planted it at the corner of North Main Street and Nichewaugh Lane in front of the tavern, then owned by Jonas Farnsworth from Groton. It was from this tree that seventeen supposedly inferior branches were cut, by the impetuous patriots during the excitement of Revolutionary times, and consigned to the flames of a roaring bonfire on the village green, thus burning in effigy, the seventeen black-listed Tories. It was under this tree that "Siam" the great white elephant was quartered when the circus came to town in the 1830's. The fire that swept the west side of the common in 1847, so injured this tree, that it never flourished afterwards, and in the great centennial year of 1876 it was considered unsafe and cut down, having still in it the irons that had held the hotel sign.

The beautiful elm near the house of Bert Smith in Nichewaugh village, has the reputation of being the largest elm in the state of Massachusetts, and measures twenty-eight feet in circumference, five feet from the ground.

The white birches in front of Mrs. Simes house on the common were seedlings brought there by Jonas Howe from his home farm on the Creek Road, to honor a birthday of his wife, Arethusa Negus, whom he married in 1816.

The elm opposite the house of Charles W. Gates has a chain grown into its center, the cause of which will be found among the "stories".

Rev'd. Peter Whitney, describes a freak apple tree in his father's

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

(Rev'd. Aaron Whitney) orchard that attracted much attention as a curious combination of both sweet and sour fruit; scions of it were taken to several other locations, and as a result of those taken to the state of New York, S. A. Beack, Horticulturist, has described it in his "The Apples of New York", Vol. 1, published 1905, as follows:

"From the account given by Whitney it is probable that the original tree of the sweet and sour apple originated in a seedling nursery, from which it was transplanted into the orchard of his father where it first attracted attention because of the curious character of its fruit".

"When fruit growers discuss this variety, the usual conclusion is drawn that it was produced by joining two half buds, one of a sweet and the other of a sour variety, and inserting them as one bud under the bark of the stock as is ordinarily done in budding. This legend is recognized as is the name of "compound" by which this apple has been known to some in western New York."

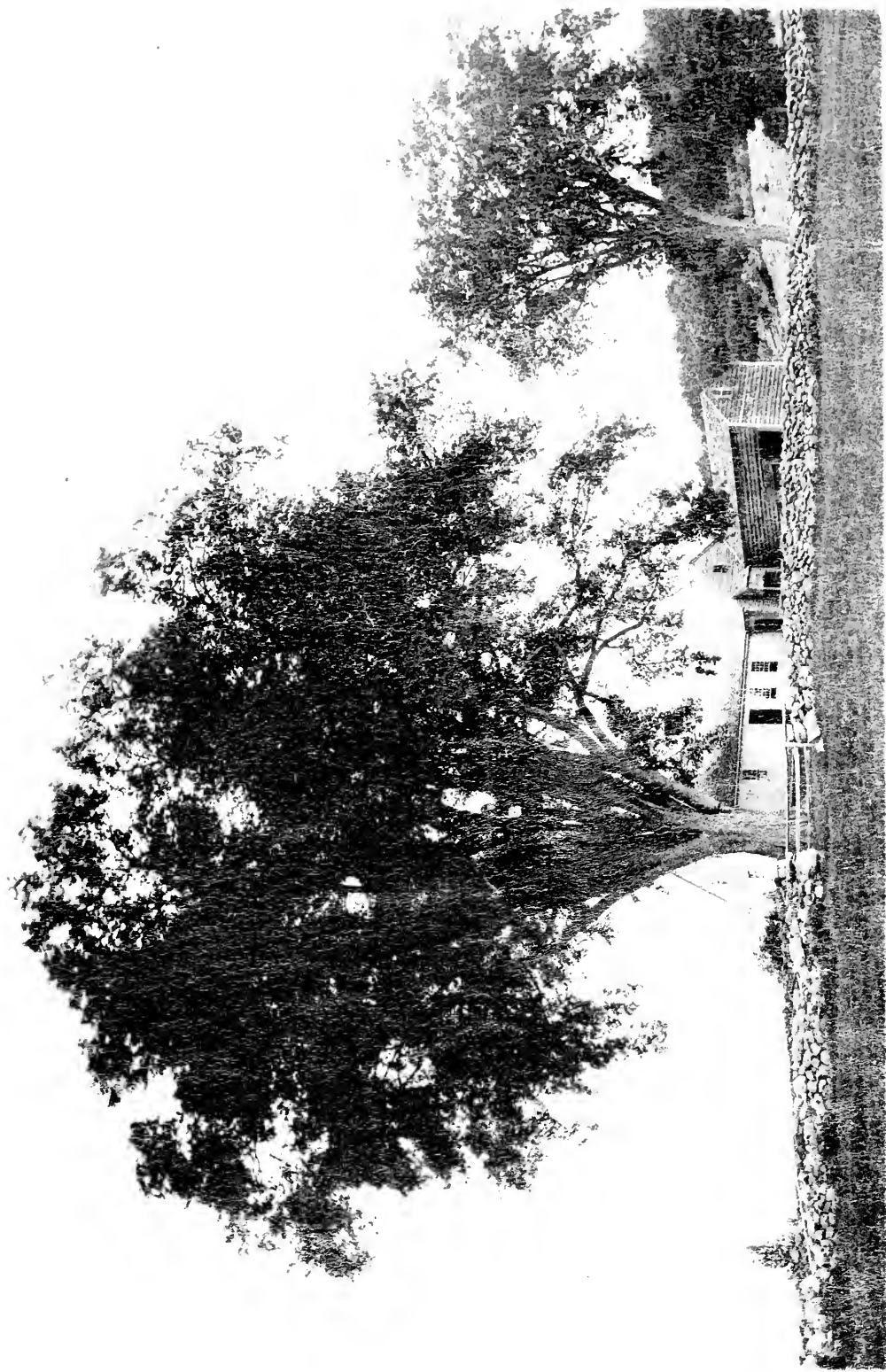
"The tree is vigorous, spreading and often quite productive. The fruit bears some resemblance to Rhode Island Greening in form, color, and occasionally to some degree in flavor. It is more marbled with green and yellow than the Rhode Island Greening, more oblate, and more often the sides are noticeably unequal".

"The fruit above medium, to rather large, form oblate, ribbed, and rather unsymmetrical. Cavity rather shallow, broad, slightly furrowed. Calyx large; lobes reflexed; skin green, especially along the ribs, with a shade of yellow on the intervening surface, and particularly on the exposed cheek. Flesh under the yellow skin very deeply tinged with yellow, mildly subacid or sweetish; but under the greenish skin, less yellow, and more acid, quality remarkably variable, fair to good".

He does not give the season of ripening but includes it in the volume with the winter apples.

From Mr. Willson's location of this tree it evidently stood on the west side of the Hardwick Road in the field, opposite the house of John W. Harlow.

The great white birch from which the Drive of that name takes



The Wheeler Elm, said to cast the largest shadow of an elm in Massachusetts. Owners: Edward Babbitt, Josiah Wheeler, Warren Mandell and (at present) Bert C. Smith.



## TREES

its name was located in the sharp curve of the road west of the former Bliss homestead.

The two beautiful blue spruce trees standing on the east side of the pond in the first East Cemetery were given by Miss Elizabeth Dawes and Mrs. Anna D. MacNutt in 1924.

The two elm trees near the site of the southeast school house were set there by Patrick Connor celebrating Arbor Day, 1884.

Jesse Rogers set the row of maples near the Nichewaug Cemetery about 1850.

Zuri Stone set the maples on North Main Street.

The English larches or tamerack trees were evidently set by members of Captain Levi Houghton's family in the early 1850's.

The elms on South Main Street were set by the Village Improvement Society under the direction of Rev'd. Lyman Clark in 1880.

The planting of the Washington Elm on the school grounds by the scholars, commemorates the two hundredth birthday of George Washington.

The evergreen trees on the east side of the second east school house were placed there in 1930 in memory of Mrs. Julia Brown Bigelow by her daughter Helen.

### CHRISTMAS TREE

(Community Tree, Petersham Common)

Cleonice Stone Warren

O, beautiful Christmas Tree,  
Through the stinging air of wintry nights,  
Sharp-etched o'er the sparkling snow,—  
You point the way, with your glowing lights  
To those who come, and those who go  
And those of us who stay!  
White is for Truth and red for Joy  
And blue for Constancy,  
And green for the Beauty of Growing Things.  
O, beautiful Christmas Tree!  
On and up, with cheer and love

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

And faith and sympathy;  
You point the way, we know it now,  
O, beautiful Christmas Tree!

The evergreen Community Tree on the Common, lighted every year at Christmas time, was placed there in the fall of 1928 following a vote of the town to that effect at the annual town meeting of that year.

The small trees between the Unitarian Church and the Post Office, now located in the Brick Building, were set by the Village Improvement Society, notwithstanding considerable opposition on the grounds that their growth would impair the beauty of the Common and value of the town clock.

On his fiftieth birthday, May 6th, 1882, Sanford B. Cook planted the two maple trees which stand in front of his house. "The hollow elm" at the corner of the yard was a landmark for many years. It was struck by lightning in the 1830's, and the resulting decay created a hollow in its trunk which, by 1880 was large enough for five adults to stand inside. New growth has since appeared which is slowly closing the cavity and strengthening it. Even when weakened by decay it was sturdy enough to withstand the heavy winds and ice storms of winter.



# HARVARD FOREST

When President Eliot of Harvard selected Mr. Richard T. Fisher to organize a forestry course in 1903, the University had no woodlands. Mr. Fisher soon realized, however, that forestry could no more be taught successfully without a forest than medicine could be taught without a hospital. Through the generosity of Mr. John S. Ames, Harvard 1901, and the collaboration of Mr. James W. Brooks of Petersham, over two thousand acres of land in Petersham was secured for the University. Most of this area supported a forest growth of extremely varied composition due to its location in a zone marked by the overlapping of the northern softwood forest and the central hardwood forest.

By 1915 it seemed plain that because so many institutions were teaching elementary forestry and because the Harvard Forest possessed unique qualifications as an experiment station, it should be devoted primarily to research and instruction should be confined to graduate students. Therefore, since 1915, the Forest has been conducted with three main objectives:

1. A field laboratory for graduate students.
2. An experiment station for research in forestry and allied fields.
3. A model forest to demonstrate the practice of forestry.

From the beginning the Forest has been managed according to the principle of sustained yield, and records have been kept of all silvicultural treatments, time and costs, and products sold. Up to 1938 over eight million feet of lumber had been harvested without diminishing the capital stock of the forest.

On September 21, 1938 a hurricane destroyed most of the merchantable stands on the Forest. During the following winter nearly 4.5 million feet of logs from blown down trees were sold to the Government and another million as stumpage to a private lumber company, the equivalent of about fifteen years of average annual cut. Most of the younger stands in which the majority of the research projects were being conducted, escaped serious injury.

Already new stands are establishing themselves on the blown

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

down areas, and in a few years valuable crops will be in the making. The kind of forest which will replace the old one will depend upon the soil, the drainage, and the seed trees nearby. Planting, except in a very few places, will not be required at all, as Nature has already proved to be a profuse planter in this locality.

Mr. Fisher, the first Director of the Forest, died on June 9, 1934. During the twenty-seven years of his management, he saw substantial progress made in carrying out the objectives he set for the Forest. Not only is it known locally, but it is well known throughout the country and even abroad. The students which Mr. Fisher trained are now established in positions all over the country.

After Mr. Fisher's death, Mr. A. C. Cline, the Assistant Director of the Forest, was in charge until May 1936, when Mr. Ward Shepard was appointed Director. Mr. Shepard came from the Department of the Interior in Washington on leave of absence, and at the end of three years he returned to the Government service. In December 1939 Mr. Cline was made Director.

Mr. Cline received his Master in Forestry degree from Harvard in 1923 and has been on the staff of the Forest ever since. He served for a number of years as Mr. Fisher's assistant and is eminently fitted by training and experience to carry forward the complicated task of rebuilding the Forest and encouraging research which is fundamental to silvicultural knowledge.

In the earlier years the Forest received a substantial income from the sale of forest products; but with the decline in stumpage values which took place in recent years, largely as a result of the increased use of substitutes for wood, it became necessary to depend more and more on the income from endowments and gifts for current use in expanding the program of research studies.

In 1937 a generous gift to the University by Dr. Godfrey L. Cabot made possible the establishment of the Maria Moors Cabot Foundation for Botanical Research. A part of the income from this gift is used at the Harvard Forest in studies essential to the selection and breeding of faster growing trees with especially valuable qualities. This research is under the direction of Dr. P. R. Gast, who came to



A. C. Cline, Director of Harvard Forest, at the Picnic Grounds, Quaker Drive, after the 1938 hurricane.



## *TREES*

the Forest as research assistant and student in 1922. Studies of soils and tree physiology were started at the Forest by him and have been carried forward by his students and associates in widely scattered experiment stations in the United States and Sweden.

An anonymous friend is giving the Forest three new buildings, to be completed in 1941. Shaler Hall will contain offices, laboratories, class rooms, a forestry library, and living quarters for students. This building is named for Professor N. S. Shaler, who was one of Mr. Fisher's teachers at Harvard and a firm believer in the conservation of natural resources. Fisher Museum will house the Harvard Forest models, a series of diorama depicting the land use history of central Massachusetts and the silvicultural methods of handling the different forest complexes of the region. The third building is a garage for the logging equipment, trucks, and cars of the Forest and staff.

These new buildings will increase the efficiency of the Forest and enable it to expand its usefulness as time goes on.

# ROADS

## THE OLD STAGE ROAD

Katherine T. Dexter

The hillside sloping toward the east  
Is thick with maple and with pine,  
And, carpeting the woodland floor,  
The green trails of the partridge vine.

Here nature rules quite undisturbed,  
And homes of men are far away,  
And quietly the forest folk  
Live out their lives from day to day.

I sit upon the old stone wall,  
Sole evidence of man's domain,  
And with the eye of fancy see  
That hillside in King George's reign.

The forest vanishes, and here  
Stand great stumps of an elder line  
Of forests, when the Indian tribes  
Camped, sheltered by the mighty pine.

The shallow ditch that crossed the hill,  
Is now a road, though something crude,  
The main post line from Boston town  
To frontier folk in cabins rude.

## ROADS

Hark! now I hear the tramp of hoofs,  
A horseman gallops on his way,  
Carrying the news of Lexington,  
Hastening the Minutemen to the fray.

Then later scenes in times of peace  
Come crowding on with colors gay,  
The great stage coaches pass along,  
With travelers of another day.

Alas! too soon the vision fades,  
Those days are past beyond recall,  
E'en as I gaze the great trees grow,  
Where once the road ran toward my wall.  
May 12th 1934.

The early "ways" were scarcely more than bridle paths, and many deeds make allowance for "the way as now trod". Mr. Willson refers to what was probably the first road built through this town, running from Lancaster to Sunderland. It was to run from Lancaster, across the Nashua River to Wachusett Pond, a little north of Wachusett Hill, eleven miles; thence through the northern part of Rutland (now Hubbardston) to the centre of "Volunteer's Township", fourteen miles. This road probably crossed the town through Oliver and Spring Streets. One of the first articles acted upon by the Proprietors was to lay out the "Great Way" five rods wide, sometimes referred to as the "Kings Highway", or "Kings Street", and extending from a mile south of the village, known as the Benjamin place to the top of Mann Hill, later extending to the Pequage line, referred to in 1741 as Kings Street.

In 1913 James Rice of Barre said the original Indian Trail from Wachusett to Graylock was still traceable in three places, one was in the east part of Barre near the Hubbardston line, the second was on

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

the Pat. Carberry farm on the east edge of Petersham where a block-house was erected in 1747, and the third was from the Hammond place to the west. It seems quite possible that the trail running east from the Hall place might be a part of it, also the section from the Quaker road, around the north side of Chimney Hill.

The first road to Barre was a continuation of the "Great Way", over Russell Hill to Swift River near Connor's Pond, climbing the north end of Loring Hill to the Patterson and Geo. E. Allen places in Barre. The present old road to Barre was in use in 1825 its entire length, and the new road or present route was built in 1837.

"Petersham June 22, 1755. Then laid one a highway in the northeast part of the town. Beginning at a heap of stones on the north side of ye road that leads to Narragansett No. 6 twenty-one rods to the east of ye Brook (called Stony Brook,) from thence to a heap of stones in the south line of Samuel Frizzels' land (later known as Petersham Town Farm) three rods wide.

ISAAC WARD  
NATHAN GODDARD  
JAMES CLEMENTS  
DAVID SANDERSON

*Selectmen*

"Surveyed by Chas. Baker."

March 1799, the fifth Turnpike Corporation was formed for building a turnpike from Northfield, through Warwick and Orange to Athol, also from Greenfield through Montague to Athol, where these two turnpikes joined and continued through Templeton, Gardner, Fitchburg to Leominster.

The sixth turnpike in June 1799, from east line of Amherst through Pelham, Greenwich, Hardwick, New Braintree, Oakham, Rutland, Holden and Worcester to the great road in Shrewsbury leading from New York to Boston.

Feb. 29, 1804, the Petersham Monson Corporation established a road from Athol through Petersham, Dana, Greenwich, Ware, Palmer and Monson to Stafford, Conn.





Mrs. Robert Willson, Miss Lucy Willson, and Mrs. Edmund R. Willson driving by the Birch Tree for which Birch Drive was named. Picture taken by Mr. Robert Willson in the 1890's.



## ROADS

1758. The road was opened on the east side of Swift River from the Quaker house to Patrick Connor's, and in 1776 land was taken from Captain Beaman and Samuel Gates to make a 2 rod road from Simeon Houghton's to the Hubbardston road, 41 rods, apparently the present north section of the Quaker road; at this time the road was discontinued from Simeon Houghton's to the east side of the town.

1764. The town voted to turn the Templeton road, with the consent of the County Committee, "about the middle of the hill from Pople Camp brook turning northerly between the lands of Thomas Shattock and Sylvanus How, until it almost comes out at the town line; said road to continue three rods wide, as laid out by the County Committee."

1766. The town accepted the Camel's Hump road from Jacob Amsden's to the New Salem road.

1781. The town accepted the road from Nathan Edson's mill on lands of Ebenezer Hammond and Benjamin Woodward 2 rods wide to Barre line near Amos Briggs.

1784. The town voted to turn East Hardwick road by William Lawton's house, and allow Mr. Lawton and others to build a bridge over the river; the given surveys proves this to be the more recently known "Carruth Road" from Edward Russell's to Mary McEvoy's evidently replacing the section of road from the David C. Paige place to Butler's bridge, and continuing up the west side of Ross Hill to the Barre line.

1787. The town accepted the road from Samuel Hopkin's between the lands of Caleb Willis and Seth Blanchard.

1840. Lewis Street connected West Street and the West Hardwick road near the Stephen Goddard place, at which time probably the road was discontinued from the junction of the Barre-Hardwick roads running southwest to the Stephen Goddard place.

### ROADS BUILT BY THE STATE

Road from Barre to Petersham—1914, reconstructed 1940.

Road from Petersham to Athol—1919.

Route 32 was unofficially named "King Phillip's Trail" in Jan.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

1932 and some markers have been erected.

Road from corner of Hardwick and Barre roads to Daniel Shays Highway open at 3 o'clock P. M. Nov. 18, 1937.

Reconstructed road between Barre and Petersham opened to the public Friday, Oct. 11th, 1940 at 4 P. M.

On Saturday, Oct. 12th, 4,059 cars passed through the new square and on Sunday the 13th, 6,254 passed through it making a total of 10,313 cars in the first two days traffic, between the hours of 8 A. M. and 10 P. M.

## FOREIGN ELEMENTS

Petersham has never been disturbed or in any way upset by its foreign element; perhaps because its natural endowments and the sterling qualities of its citizens had a tendency to attract only the better and intelligent class of immigrants.

When the English settlers drifted into this territory in the early 1730's and took up their claims on the hill tops the native Indians apparently continued their peaceful habitations and customs in the valleys undisturbed by the strangers, excepting only during the period of the French and Indian Wars (1740-1760) when all French and Indians had reason to be suspicious of all English, everywhere; even so, there is no record or tradition of any atrocity having been inflicted by the Indians within our town.

When the Revolutionary War was over two of the Hessians who had been quartered in the barracks at West Rutland, Peter Hart and George Hatstatt, came to Petersham and engaged in the pottery business on the estate of John Chandler. Peter Hart, is recorded in the 1790 census as the head of a family of six. George Hatstatt married Beulah Martin, an Irish girl, daughter of William Martin of Paxton and as early as 1800 owned a farm on the west edge of the town, later set off to the town of Dana, and raised a large family of children, some of whom settled in New Salem and some in Rutland. None settled permanently in this town, though George and Beulah were both buried here.

About 1840 the only colored family to live in town was settled south of Factory Village, Charlie and Susie Upton with their three children, Augustus, Samuel and Mary Ann. Augustus married and lived on the John Gallond place where their son, Frank, continued to live after his parents' death until about 1910. Samuel married a mulatto and had five children, Susie, Joseph, Martha, Eva, and Seth. Mary Ann never married and lived in the Jetson Spooner mill after it was removed from the bank of Swift River below the bridge to the west side of the Hardwick Road near Storrsville, then called Tinkertown. No remnant of this family remains in town and most of them died young with tuberculosis.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

The exodus from Ireland following the three year famine in 1845-1846-1847, brought many of that country's most enterprising natives to our North Atlantic shores. The brewing of our Civil War and its five years' duration kept many of these Irish folk in Canada but when it was over in the late 1860's and 1870's we find several of these thrifty ambitious families settled on the large and productive farms of Petersham, most of them on the easterly side of the town, excepting only Michael Connor whose farm was on the West Hardwick road and Thomas McEvoy, on Ross Hill at the extreme southern edge of the town. These families were those of John Ryan, John McManus, Michael Madden, Michael Broderick, Dennis McCormack, Thomas Keating, Michael Keaveney, Michael Joyce, William Harty, Patrick Glasheen, Patrick Tobin, Patrick Carbury, James Burns, Michael Leamy, Martin Hillory and Thomas Franklin who had come into possession of the Asa Pond property after years as faithful caretaker.

In 1884 Andrew Peter Johnson and wife, native Swedes, arrived in town and for forty years, he was one of the principal carpenters of the town, building several houses and engaged in fine cabinet work.

In the same year of 1884, John F. Barnes with wife and four children, came from Gardner and became a vital part of the town; beside being the popular landlord of the Petersham House, Mr. Barnes was for many years, fire chief and for one term carried the Athol mail. Their success and popularity in town was largely due to the efficiency and rare good judgment of Mrs. Barnes who never faltered at any task to be done. It was during the time that Mr. Barnes was fire chief that the buildings on the east side of the Common were burned, demanding his absolute attention. Mrs. Barnes with her six hours old daughter, Ruth, by her side and the three next older children in her room, were left alone in the house. Thinking Mrs. Barnes might be nervous in all the excitement, a neighbor went in to inquire, but was assured there was nothing to be nervous about, for if the danger came too close there would be plenty of folks to help them, her only regret being her inability to help her younger sister, Mrs. Robert Glasheen, whose home had just burned and nothing but their lives were saved. Eight of their children have settled in town and assumed

## FOREIGN ELEMENTS

their share of responsibilities. Most of these Irish families have entirely disappeared from the town, some of the sons and daughters attaining high standards in the business world; the remnants of only six families remain and are respected and valued citizens of the town.

A generous allotment of Canadians have settled in town either bringing their families with them or marrying here. Most of these have been the Scotch type, but a few of the French element came to stay. Germain Legare, though Parisian born, came from Quebec in 1848 and became a pail maker and trapper. He enlisted in the 21st Mass. Volunteers and became cook of the company. Dr. James Oliver who was surgeon in the same regiment related the story that, "While the regiment marched the two hundred miles from Kentucky to Knoxville, Tenn., Mr. Legare wheeled the camp kettles all the way in a wheelbarrow, always cheerful and jolly, the life of the company." He spent nine months in the Andersonville and Libby prisons and after his return to town was a popular wood turner with his place of business and home in the south part of the town.

In 1890 Stanislaus Brunelle and family, settled in town. He became the first barber of the town, the business was later continued by his son, Albert. Two of his daughters have homes here.

In 1892, John and Amelia (Christianson) Anderson with their six children came to town from Hordalen, Norway, after spending two years in northern Vermont. All of their eleven children settled in town, though two of them later moved to Barre. Three of the daughters married men who came from Drunnen, Norway, Louis I. Nelson, Henry Lawson, and Lawrence Lawson. One daughter married Cornelius Yonker, who came from Holland, and another daughter married Hans Jacobson who came from Denmark. In 1896, John Yonker, with his wife and three children, Henry, Cornelius, and Annie, settled on the Hosea Carter place on the east side of Three Penny Morris.

During the past twenty years several families of Russians and Lithuanians have appeared here but most of them found it too difficult to make a living and moved on. Only the Lithuanians Julius Recos and his son Gabriel have remained.

# HOUSES

Dates do not always indicate date of purchase; but, at the date given the person mentioned owned, or lived in, the house.

Allen, Charles L. (Worcester). Built by himself, 1919.

Allen, Francis J. (Tom Swamp Road). Built by himself.

Amidon, Clarence R., 1913; Josiah Amidon, 1868; Flint Jennison; Joshua Pillsbury, 1848; Daniel Hawks, 1781; Adam Whiting.

Amsden, Hattie G., 1912; Henry Totman, 1872; Nelson Bosworth, 1835; George Bosworth. Burned, October 23, 1940.

Amsden, Laura D., camp dwelling built on site of David Amsden's house; dwelling house, George Amsden, 1918; Thomas Smith; Jonathan Peckham.

Anderson, Edward (Barre Road); John Anderson, 1896; George O. Cook, 1868; Eleazer Whitney; Aaron Brooks; Henry Chase.

Anderson, John A., 1924; James W. Brooks, 1900; J. Ballard Goddard, 1870; Merritt Hamilton, 1864; Joseph Jackson, 1860. Built by James Jackson.

Ansley, Clayton O. (Nichewaug), 1920; small house, John A. Carter; David Parlin; William Allen, 1855; Asa Snow; Artemus Howard.

Babbitt, Lewis H., 1927; Charles M. Gay, 1885; Thomas S. Howe, 1843; Joel Stearns, 1820. Built by William Negus before 1760.

Baldwin, Raymond C. (Turnpike). Built by Henry H. Lindsey, 1865.

Baldwin, John W. (heirs); Frank Robinson, 1900. Built by George F. Plympton, 1870.

Ball, Winfred L.; Daniel Johnson. Built by Sprague Smith about 1800.

Ballard, Harland H. Built by owner.

Banks, Hilda S. Built by Percy Banks, 1916. (William Douglas 1947)

Baptist Society. Church built by Rev. J. R. Conrad, 1893. Parsonage built during pastorate of Rev. Harry Chamberlain, 1900.

Barnes, Emma C.; Stanislaus Brunelle, 1892; Sylvester Goodwell, 1859; Luther Benjamin. Built by Oliver Cromwell Gates, 1800.



## HOUSES

Barnes, Harold S., cottage built in 1929; dwelling, John M. Keaveney, 1917; Williams Haskell; Harry Taft, 1843; Joseph G. Parmenter, 1840.

Bassett, Leslie W.; Harrison Holden, 1890; Stillman Holden, 1877; Samuel Brewer. Built by Artemus Brigham.

Bassett, Walter A. Built by Artemus Brigham, 1830.

Bates, Estelle (heirs), 1917; B. A. Lamont; Jackson Dunn, 1890; William George; Benjamin Wetherbee; Avery Chamberlain. Built by Joel Chamberlain, 1841.

Bates, Harry H.; Leo Robinson; George Prouty; Rev. Luther Willson, 1835. Built by John Hildreth, 1770.

Bates. Clayton J., 1930; William W. Stewart, 1895 (Ballyshannon). Built by Solomon Lincoln, 1886.

Bates, Myron W. (South Main Street), 1929; James Stowell, 1862; Henry Stowell to 1929. Built by Charles Houghton, 1844.

Bates, Myron W. (Hardwick road), 1932. Built by B. A. Lamont, 1925.

Belden, Chester A., 1920; George J. Cobb; Benjamin Cook, 1900; Harriet S. Barnes, 1878; Martha Edwards, 1869; Paul Peckham, 1864; Daniel Fales, 1848. Built by Laura Whiting, 1841.

Bigelow, Alice (heirs); Frank R. Bigelow, 1892; T. Jefferson Chamberlain, 1863; Hudson Tolman, 1859. Built by Clark Mann, 1837. First occupant Rev. Nathaniel Gage, 1841, and Rev. Ephraim Nute, 1845. (Edward Hennessey 1943) (E. C. Hutchinson 1948)

Blair, George C., 1909; Margaret Felton; Collins Andrews, 1843. Built by Ruel Farrar.

Brackley, Alberta. Built by Mr. Munsell.

Brady, James M.; Thomas Brady, 1925. Built by Andrew Peter Johnson, 1890.

Broderick, Daniel, store on West Street. Moved by William Simes to its present site from the rear of the Unitarian Church. Built for a cheese factory on the site of Louis I. Nelson's house about 1863. Moved to its site in the rear of the church by Zina H. Blackmer, 1885, where it was used as a skating rink a few years.

Brouillette, Frederick. Built by himself 1928.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Brown, William H. (heirs); Augustus Smith; John Paige, 1822; Elisha Woodward.

Brues, Bernie B.; George Waugh, 1880; Dana Knowlton, 1820; Daniel Duncan, 1765; Rev. Joseph Farrar, 1784.

Brunelle, Margaret, 1923; Joseph Wildes, 1895; Paul Pierce, 1877; Peter Wheeler, 1859; Lewis McNear; Moses Gates.

Bryant, Leroy, 1927; Abiatha Walton; William Merry; Benjamin Cook, 1850; Col. Ephraim Doolittle, 1774.

Bryant, Walter A.; Miss Mary Woodward; Oliver Holman; Lucius Holland. Probably built by Solomon Holman about 1765.

Buell, Charles E., 1917; James W. Brooks, 1908; Daniel Bigelow, 1900; Jotham Bigelow, 1870; Daniel Fales from Aaron Brooks, who built it.

Burdett, Waldo H., built by him in 1933. Temporary Cottage.

Burt, Susan, 1937; Daniel Hanson; Michael Madden; Daniel Ward; Thomas Hammond, 1785.

Burrage, Robert. Built by him in 1887.

Butler, Grace C., 1935; Charles E. Osgood, 1915; Mary Cook, 1855. Built by Joseph G. Parmenter, 1825. (Olive Marsh since 1943)

Butterworth, George W., 1936; Harry W. Smith; Adelaide Shaw, 1922; Marshall Dudley. Built by Samuel Dudley, 1825.

Carr, Robert F.; John W. Petrie; James McManus; Eri Parlin, 1842.

Chickering, Helen F., 1900; Harriet R. Chickering, as early as 1890; George Whitney, 1881; William Bancroft, 1864; James Whipple, 1844; Lyman Brooks, 1819; William Peckham.

Childs, James T.; Hubert Mills; George Davis; Norman Brackley; Arthur Toft; Mrs. LeMont; William Day; Charles Davis; Walter H. McFarland; Sarah Parker. Built by Luther Parker, 1867.

Childs, Willard T.; George Prouty, 1885; Hubbard Peckham raised it to two stories in 1840. Built by John Peckham, 1802.

Clark, Mary A.; Charles Clark; Willard Clark. Built by Jesse Rogers about 1840.

Cobb, George J. (heirs). Built by himself, 1920.

## HOUSES

Cobb, William A., 1900; Joseph Carpenter, 1887; Hiram Leighton, 1876. Built by Asaph Browning about 1850.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Beebe House; Henry Ellis; Zachariah Wade House; C. A. Hyde; Eleezer Estey, 1880; Lucius Sibley, 1835; Artemus Crawl, 1820.

Congregational Orthodox Society; Church built, 1829; remodeled and moved 50 feet further from the street in 1900; Pilgrim parsonage; Emory Goddard. Built by John Foster, 1841.

Connor (et al); Patrick Connor, 1870; Alfred Carruth, 1850. Built by Elbridge Miles, 1835.

Connors, Clover J.; James H. Smith; William Smith moved it from a place east of Clarence Amidon's 1865.

Coolidge, Basil S. Built by himself, 1932.

Coolidge, Burt C.; Michael Connor; P. Clifford, 1855; Nathaniel Goddard, 1809.

Coolidge, Charles S., 1924; School house of District No. 13, built 1867; remodeled by B. A. Lamont about 1920.

Coolidge, Dorothy (et al) ; Louis N. Coolidge, 1885; Samuel Smith 1876; Adin Bullard, 1865. Built by David Twitchell, 1863.

Coolidge, Arthur and Elizabeth, 1935; Frank A. Coolidge, 1920; Franklin Haven; Calvin Holman. Built by Sylvanus Howe, 1765.

Coolidge, Horace (Templeton road) ; Frank Lord; William Haskell, 1861; Stephen Haskell, 1815; Zemira Shumway; Joel Doolittle.

Coolidge, Horace (Hardwick road), 1936. Built by Thomas Foster, 1916.

Coolidge, Edward O., 1907; Sanford B. Cook, 1870; Col. George White, 1843; Samuel Stevens, 1835; Rev. Luther Willson, 1824; Joseph Wyman, 1816; Capt. Asa Pond, 1803. Built by Rev. Solomon Reed, 1788.

Cutler, Charles B. Built by Lucian Cutler.

Darling, Albert W. Built by him in 1925.

Davenport, Edward P., 1933; Herman Mann; James Luce, 1866; Samuel Mann, 1862.

Davis, Charles E., Alice Nowe; Germain Legare, 1864; David R. Richards, 1856; Eliza Gallond; John Gallond. (Waldo Burdett 1940)

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

Davis, Ethel J., 1930; John M. Holman, 1874; Mary Ann Howe; Solomon Holman. Built by Horatio Parmenter, 1850. (Gabriel Recos 1943)

Day, Martha B. W.; Sophia E. Lee; Charles Nightingale, 1910; George Ayers, 1878; John Shepardson, 1869; William Clark. Built by Samson Wetherell, 1835. (Burned 1947)

Dexter, Mary V. and Katherine T. Built by Edwin C. Dexter, 1893.

Dickinson, Stewart W. (et al) ; Charles Rice; Kies Upton; Amos Dudley, 1855; Adin Witt; Edward Clark, 1856.

Donaldson, Caroline. Built by Dr. Frederick Donaldson, 1934.

Dorow, Augustus E.; Loring Barnes; Laura Goddard; Schuyler Green, 1840. Built by Horatio Parmenter, 1835.

Dorward, Irwin P.; Henry Bennett, 1895; Henry King, 1883; Nelson Lippitt, 1852; Rufus Bryant; Nathaniel Chandler. Built by John Chandler, 1760. (Robert Moore, 1946)

Douthit, Charlotte, 1939; Robert C. Douthit. Rebuilt from the David Johnson house on East Street, 1932.

Downs, Alice J. (off the old Barre road); S. B. Clark; Henry Bennett; Thomas Keating; Jonas Brown, Sr.; Hiram Gage, 1855.

Downs, Alice (Wade place) ; William Wade, 1859; Enoch Hammond; Jotham Bowker.

Doyle, John F.; John Cornell; Henry Hodges, 1850; Dr. Jerry Hodges. Built by Philip Spooner, 1770.

Duane, Maud O.; Dwight Towne; Samuel Towne. Built in 1838 by J. M. K. Johnson.

Dugan, Hugh; William Clem, 1900; William Clark.

Duncan, William S.; Josiah Battersby. Built by Henry Mann 1860.

Eaton, Flora (et al), 1923; Charles Eaton, 1913; Ruth M. Rogers, 1900; William B. Spooner, 1870; Lott Mann, 1864. Built by Seth Hapgood, 1842.

Edwards, Milton C. Built by him, 1932.

Elliot, Frederick W., 1911; Bainbridge Bennett; James Clapp, 1880; John Howe, 1843; Washington Howe, 1842; Stephen Howe.

## HOUSES

Elliot, Wayne. Built by him in 1937.

Ewing, Frank, 1930. Built by Josephine Dickman, 1908.

Ferguson, Anna, 1899; Joseph W. Upton, 1843; Joel Bryant, 1798; Joseph Seaver.

Fisher, Gertrude B.; Gilbert Clark and daughters, 1810. Built by John Hildreth, Jr., 1800. (Riddell)

Flint Memorial. Built by Welcome Wadsworth, 1830; Isaac Brock, 1857; Dr. George L. Perry, 1896. Presented to the Town March, 1927, in memory of Dr. John Flint, who lost his life in "spotted fever" epidemic 1810, by his two granddaughters, Charlotte L. and Elizabeth H. Flint.

Fisher, Donald, 1937. Built by Alvin Shaw, 1927.

Fisher, Georgina P., 1909; Ensign Marsh, Lebbeus Spooner; Frederick Rich; Moses Ball; John A. Peckham.

Fisher, Georgina P., (Campbell house) ; Edna Campbell, 1900; David Dudley, 1880; Clapp Spooner, 1782. Built by Daniel Spooner, 1750.

Fisk, Ethel, 1917; James W. Brooks, 1887; Samuel Smith, 1881; Fred Stowell, 1873; Dr. Eben Jackson, 1866; Dr. Franklin A. Woods, 1856. Built by Dr. Samuel Taylor, 1842.

Fiske, Margaret G., Jr., Gibbs house moved from corner of North Main Street and Nichewaug Lane to East Street by James W. Brooks about 1895; Cellar Hole No. 177. Rebuilt for Raymond Amsden 1944.

Fiske, Margaret, Sr. Built by James W. Brooks, 1899.

French, Allen; John W. Holman; Curtis Sanderson. Built by Joel Brooks. (E. M. C. French 1947)

French, Edwin M. C.; Edward Smith; Henry Grover, 1875; Thomas Field; T. Jefferson Chamberlain.

Furness, Rebecca and Laura. Built by them in 1890.

Gale, George B.; Philip Gale, 1887; George Bryant, Artemas Bryant; Joel Bryant; Samuel Bryant, 1787; through Benjamin Green, agent for the Commonwealth, property confiscated, formerly owned by Thomas Beaman, "who guided the British to Concord in 1775".

Gale, Robert. Built by him in 1928.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Ganson, Adam; Arthur Brooks. Built by Frank Stone, 1900. (Benjamin House), Luther Benjamin; Edward Doane; John Howes; Abel Parmenter; John Stowell.

Gibbs, Edith (et al) ; Hiram Gibbs, 1851. Built by Williams Goddard, 1840.

Goodsell, Alson and Carolyn, built by them, 1921; Hicks house; Levi Hicks, 1892-1929; C. F. Paige, 1884; Seth Saltmarsh, 1855; built by Francis Twitchell, 1852.

Goodsell, Henry I., 1931; George Waugh, 1897; Perry Carruth, 1854; Lorenzo Barnes, 1845; Massena Amsden, 1835; Paul Hildreth, 1842. Built by Orator Meacham, 1838. (Louis J. King 1945)

Gray, Emory F., 1917; Elizabeth Towne. Built by Lewis Curtis, 1841.

Green, J. Henry; John Smith; John Carter, 1800; (Lilly house) William A. Smith, 1892; Levi C. Hicks, 1881; Thomas Aldrich, 1865; Henry Taylor; Jesse Rogers, 1839; Joel Chamberlain.

Griffin, Frederick, 1935; Baldwin and Smart; Edwin C. Dexter, 1902; Amory Bigelow, 1895. Built by Otis Fox, 1878.

Grover, Donald. Built by him, 1930.

Hall, John L., 1919; Frank Dudley; Edwin Chamberlain, 1869; Robert Cutler, 1855; Ashel Rickey, 1835; John Taft, 1824; George Gates, 1818; Daniel Braman.

Hall, Raymond. Built by himself 1946.

Harvard Forest School, 1908; Adoni Shomo. Built by Jonathan Sanderson.

Harris, Caroline S., 1917; Benjamin W. Spooner, 1882; Stephen Spooner, 1831; Wing Spooner, Jr., 1802; Wing Spooner built it in 1762.

Harris, Ellen. Built by owner, 1934.

Hapgood, Elizabeth, 1920. Built by John Mitchell of New York, 1890.

Harlow, John W., 1919; Frank W. Goddard; Forester Goddard, 1858; Charles Foster, 1855; Rufus Stowell, 1811; Abel Stowell, 1798; John Stowell, 1790.

Harty, Charles, 1910; Frederick Bryant, 1864; it was a part of

## HOUSES

the Gates Tavern, moved to present site by William Howe, 1860.

Harwood, Nellie (heirs) ; Elbridge Harwood; Clinton Bohanon, 1880; Alonzo Corson; J. Nelson Brooks; Levi Young, 1855; Aaron Rice, 1840. Built by Col. Ephraim Stearns before 1775.

Hassett, Waman; Charles Hubbard; Rufus Clement; Charles Smith; John Chandler.

Hathaway, Erwin O.; Leander Hathaway built it in 1899. (Wayne McGinnis 1946)

Hayden, William J. Built by himself.

Hill, Eliza G., 1928; Dr. Frederick Donaldson, 1910; John F. Barnes, 1884; Henry Billings, 1880; Alonzo Priest, Phineas Barr, Built by Aaron Brooks for Rev. George R. Noyes, 1842. (Mrs. Norman Hapgood).

Hill, George H.; J. Henry Hill. Built by Elias Hill, 1813. (Taken down 1945)

Hockaday, Dr. Agnes; William Woodward, 1865; Zabina Woodward, 1849; Rufus Flagg, 1842; Silas Flagg, 1839; John Page, 1839; Samuel Chamberlain, 1794; Caleb Willis, 1783, who probably built it.

Hodges, Clara and Virginia; Silas Gage; John L. Gallond; Hutchins Hapgood.

Hopkinson, Leslie W.; Caroline Emmerton, 1890; Misses C. L. and E. H. Flint, 1885; Elizabeth Fobes, 1870; Israel Houghton, 1804; William Clark; Jeremiah Robinson; Elijah Dix, 1791.

Hutchinson, Henry; Amos Carroll, 1890. Built by David Wheeler.

Jackson, Elizabeth; J. J. Higginson, 1886; Zuri Stone; William Dickinson, 1847; Josiah Willard, 1836; Charles Wheeler.

Johnson, Arthur D., 1921; Otis Hagar, 1910; Lorenzo West. Built by Horatio Parmenter.

Johnson, Harold. Built by him in 1930 and removed to Spring Street, 1936.

Johnson, Avery A.; Lyman Hapgood; Chauncey Hapgood, 1832; Heiman Hall (Gates place) ; Charles W. Gates; Charles Gates; John Gates; Samuel Gates, 1749.

Johnson, Franklin H.; Avery Johnson, 1912; George R. R.

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

Rivers, 1889; Col. Josiah White, 1828; John Wilder.

Jones, T. Catesby; George West, 1885; Silas Hildreth, 1838; Phineas Brooks, 1825; Artemus Bryant. Built by David Stone about 1760; was the scene of the Tory riot. Cottage built by George West.

Joslyn, George H.; John Carter, 1917; Frank Upton; Augustus Upton; Abraham Haskel; John Gallond.

Kinnicutt, Roger. Built 1928.

Knapp, Allen. Built by him, 1934.

Knapp, Edward C., 1897; Sewell C. Goddard, 1861; Stephen Dwight Goddard, 1834; Stephen Goddard, 1797; Robert Goddard, 1774.

Knowles, E. Mabel; David Chisholm; S. B. Clark; Warren T. Davenport, 1851; Loring Sprague; Hubbard Peckham. (Lester Banks 1946)

Knowlton, Harry E., 1911; Eliza Barnes, 1900; Alfred Peckham, 1866. Built by Joseph G. Parmenter, 1843.

Larsen, Robert, 1938; Warren Russell, 1885; Samuel Stevens, 1842; on site of Thomas Curtis house, Cellar Hole No. 85.

LaFarr, George L. Built by himself, 1934; burned August 13, 1939. Rebuilt, 1939.

Lamb, Eleanor M., 1925; William Wade, 1886; Lorenzo West, 1861; Gilbert Clark, 1841. Built by Joseph G. Parmenter, 1835.

Lawson, E. Henry. Built in 1920.

Lawson, Lawrence. Built in 1921.

Lehman, Jennie S., 1929; George A. Gibbs, 1883; John Howes, 1846. Built by Benjamin F. Hamilton, 1838.

LePoer, Bernard A., 1924; Frederick Barnes; Charles Smith, 1883; Moses Elliot, 1860; Simeon Dudley from Amos Stultz, 1855. Built by Benjamin Chandler before 1790.

Lord, Palmer J.; Caroline Lord; Adin Bullard, 1876; William Tolman, 1871; Aurelia Carruth, 1871; Mrs. Mary Miles.

MacLaurin, Elsie; Herbert W. Stone, 1900; Elbridge Stone, 1878; Samuel Jennings; William Rogers; Jeremiah Cook. Built by William Cook, 1824.

Marsh, George. Built by himself, 1892.



## HOUSES

Marsh, G. Homer. Built by George Marsh, 1910, of the Burage Laundry and the Simon Dudley house; bricks from several ancestral places pave the walk.

Marsh, Lillian. Built by George Marsh, 1906, of the Second North School house.

May, Pearl E. Built by Edward May, 1910, on site of Jeremiah Dean place; Cellar Hole No. 152.

McEvoy, Mary E.; Thomas McEvoy, 1870; from Nathan Taylor; Seth Ross, Jr., 1825; Seth Ross, 1780; James Kittridge on the original right of Stephen Merrill, No. 67; Charles Williams; Zuri Williams; Amos Briggs, 1773.

McEvoy, William P. Two houses built 1933-1934.

McIntyre, Frederick, 1935. Built by Dr. Lawton Brooks, 1915.

McNutt, Anna D.; Anna M. Dawes; George Bosworth, Jr., 1835; Constant Brown, 1825; James Ripley, 1815. Built by Nathaniel McCarty, 1785.

Metropolitan Water Supply Company; Bert G. Smith; Warren Mendall; Josiah Wheeler; Edward Babbett, 1831; Peter Chamberlain; James Babcock.

Miller, Edith (et al); Eunice Shepardson; John Pratt, 1865. Built by Horatio Parmenter. Loring House; Oliver Loring, 1873; John Bowker, Jr. (Taken down by George Gale 1946)

Moriarty, Winifred, 1930. Built by Louise Welch, 1905.

Mitchell, Benjamin, 1939. Built by Emma Tatro, 1920.

Nelson, John C., 1936. Built by Elizabeth Dawes about 1915. Rented to the State Police as their Barracks from 1925-1935.

Nelson, Louis I., 1894; Alphonzo Blair removed this house from the Emory Sibley place in west part of the town, 1890.

Newbury, Robert A., 1930; Clara and Amelia Shaffer, 1913. Built by Orisa Coolidge, 1881.

Nichewaugh Inn; Catherine Stamford, 1938. Built by James W. Brooks, 1899. (Franklin E. Hodgekins 1947)

Ogden, Elizabeth G., 1930; Susan D. Prince, 1905; Daniel Goddard's wheelwright's shop.

Paine, John B.; John Knapp; Levi Knapp built it in 1864, near

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

the site of the old house occupied by Joel Ballou, father of Mrs. Levi Knapp.

Parks, Lillian D.; Edward Wilcox; Ephraim Osgood, 1836. Built by Joab Young. (Removed to Barre 1947)

Parsons, Francis B.; James Hitchcock; James Ripley; Benjamin Simmons. Built by Joseph Gleason, 1760. (Percy Banks 1945)

Perkins, Harriet B. (heirs), 1904; Emerson Goddard, 1885; Daniel Goddard, 1834; Robert Peckham; Samuel Willson, 1766. Built by James Cowden about 1760.

Perkins, William J.; Patrick Tobin, 1880; David Randall, 1833; Edward Brigham, 1798. Probably built by Charles Wilder.

Petersham Associates. Built by Michael Joyce, 1870.

Petersham Country Club House. Built, 1920. Dwelling house built by George Felton, 1780; George Felton, Jr., 1813; Asa Walker; Austin Brooks.

Petersham Grange Corporation, 1887; Joshua Tolman. Built by Wetherell and Hamilton, 1840.

Phillips, Ernest S. Built in 1940 on Cellar Hole No. 175.

Pitcher, Jenny V., 1900; George Lindsey; Arthur Akers, 1887; Forest A. Hicks, 1875; Benjamin Hicks, 1859; Ezekiel Peirce, 1849; Avery Clapp; John Page; Andrew Brown.

Plummer, Edgar H.; John Pocket; Samuel Randall; William Walker.

Preble, Ruth H., 1917; Maria L. Knowlton, 1878; George White, 1870; Lyman Stratton, 1842; Paul Peirce changed the ell from the east to the north; Lorenzo West, 1841; Oren West.

Putnam, Roger. Built by himself in 1927.

Rathbone, Percy T., 1938; Sally Cochran, 1907; Louisa Wetherell, 1890; Sampson Wetherell; Asa Wait, 1839. Built by Aaron Brooks, 1830.

Recos, Gabriel; Thomas Ward; Edward Shattuck;——Sanderson. Built by Curtis Gleason.

Recos, Julius; Arthur D. Johnson; George Ayers; Isaac Ayers. Built by Curtis Gleason about 1815.

Reid, Robert B.; William Bancroft; Lemuel Hodges, 1855.

## HOUSES

Richards, Amelia; ——— Carlton; Frank Pigorra. Built by Jesse Rogers, 1840. (Rebuilt by Benjamin White)

Rickey, Clara (heirs). Built by Joseph Rickey about 1895, on site of house owned by Stephen Howe.

Riggs, Maida (heirs) ; Charlotte Howe; Seth Hapgood, 1842; Lewis Bigelow. Daniel Bigelow built it in 1780. Seth Hapgood moved it from its original site at the corner of Main Street and Sunset Lane to its present site in 1842. (Wm. E. Loy 1940)

Robinson, Frank L., 1929; William H. Peirce; Marcellus Peckham, 1876; Major Peckham, 1860; William Peckham. Built by widow Mary Parmenter, 1822.

Roman Catholic Bishop; Rufus Bryant, 1852; Rev. Martin Willis, 1849. (Juliet McCormack 1945)

Russell, Eddie O. Built by him in 1910. (Harry Upham 1946)

Russell, Herbert W.; Eddie O. Russell, 1898; Ansell Stowell, 1842; Dexter Stowell; Lemuel Stowell.

Russell, Martin C., 1935; Laura McDowell; Marcia Clark. Built by W. W. Stewart, 1900.

Salkeld, Winifred (heirs) ; Chas. Davis; Warren Burrage; Simeon Burrage lived there about fifty years. Built by Capt. George Walker in 1840.

Simes, Fannie N. and Olive (West Road Inn) ; Adelpia Stone. Built by Jairus Stone, 1850.

Hilt house, Sarah Hilt; Paul Peckham; Asa Clark, 1842; Phineas Brooks.

Curtis house; Clark Curtis; Daniel Fales. Built by Dr. William Parkhurst for Seth Hathaway.

Simes, William (heirs), 1887; Benjamin Howe, 1867; Jonas Howe, 1816; Joel Negus, 1811; Moses Brown, 1803; Dr. Richard P. Bridge, 1786. Built by William Peckham, 1768.

Stone house; Meltiah Stone; moved in 1842 to make room for the new Unitarian Church from its site north of the Jonas Howe house where it was used as the Howe and Farrar store.

Smith, Bert G., 1937; Walter Hicks; Forest Hicks; Jetson Spooner; Caleb Chamberlain, 1825; Levi Chamberlain.

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

Smith, Eva R.; John F. Barnes, 1910; Louise Smith, 1866; Horace Amsden, 1865; Mrs. Adin Witt, 1861; Major Peckham, 1848; Seth Hapgood, 1840; (Central School building).

Smith, George. Built by himself, 1938, on Cellar Hole No. 116.

Smith Jennie., 1920; Zuri Stone, 1886; Lewis Whitney, 1872; William P. Goddard, 1860. Built by Charles Wheeler, 1860.

Smith, Julia; Peter Harwood Marsh, 1833; Ensign Mann, Jr., 1808.

Snow, John. Built by himself, 1913.

Spinney, Isaac; Charles Moore; Daniel Grosvenor.

Spykman, Elizabeth C.; Charles F. Choate, Jr.; Joab Blanchard; Abiatha Blanchard, 1816. Jenkins Cottage; Built by Avery Williams in 1835.

Stiles, Clarence; Julia Nickerson, 1880; Charles Cummings, 1870; John Gale.

Stone, Charlotte M. Built by William Lehman, 1865.

Stone, Mrs, Lester, 1924; DeWitt Williams, 1872; Dr. William Parkhurst, 1816; Festus Foster, 1802; Nathaniel McCarty, 1798; Samuel Cutler, 1797; Samuel Peckham as early as 1770.

Stratton, Cora L., 1885; Artemus Wilder, 1855; Walter Sanderson, 1847; John Willard, 1844. (Francis Parsons, 1946)

Swantee, Carl. Built by him in 1934.

Taylor, Paul F.; Ernest Phillips, 1900-1917; Francis Stone, 1852; John Paige, 1849; Erastus Clark, 1835; Silas Flagg, 1814. Seth Blanchard built it about 1783.

Thayer, Frank L., 1930; Alponzo Blair, 1895; Emory Sibley, 1883; Lyman Clark, 1878; Delia Dinsmore, 1876; Merrick Blanchard, 1865; Jared Weed, 1820; Nathan Prentiss, 1794. Built by William Peckham, 1784. (Sold to Edwin M. C. French, Jr., 1937 and to Arnold Johnson 1947)

Thomas, Clytie I. Built by herself on the site of the Chamberlain house destroyed by fire, 1913; Cellar Hole No. 29.

Tucker, Mary B., 1900;—McClellan; Joab Stowell.

Tufts, Herbert W.; Alvin Tufts; Timothy Sprague; Asa Johnson, 1855.

## HOUSES

Unitarian Society (Church built in 1909). Ingersoll Parsonage, 1883; Richard Ingersoll, 1843; John H. Willis, 1840; William Goddard.

Upham, Albert. Built by himself, 1933.

Upham, Harry; Rinaldo Stone; Winsor Stratton; built by Jonathan Stratton. (Charles Upham 1948)

Vickers, Alfred E., 1931; Hans Jacobson; George Joslyn; Henry Barnes until 1907; Timothy Whitney, 1855; Lewis Whitney.

Vickers, Maude E. Built in 1936.

Waid, Alice; Hollis Lippitt, 1870; George Hodges, 1869; Bradford Hodges, 1840; William Bosworth; Benjamin Bosworth, 1779.

Waldo, C. Sidney; Charles S. Waldo, 1900; Henry Ashford, 1885; Harrison Bancroft; Alpheus White; Frederick Rogers. Franklin house; Built by Capt. Asa Pond in 1815; moved to its present site by C. S. Waldo. Dudley House; Built by Russell Dudley, 1860; moved by C. S. Waldo to its present site.

Welch, Mildred J., 1923; John Coolidge; Rollin Stebbins; Adin Witt. Built by Amasa Chamberlain, 1830. (Edward Welsh 1948)

Wheeler, George A.; John Wheeler; G. Palmer Wheeler.

Wheeler, Frederick; George Bosworth; Danford Bosworth.

Wheeler, Sarah M.; Samuel Mann; Thomas Jackson.

White, Mary A., 1920; Lot Stone; Gardner Stone, 1820; Samuel Stone. Toll house on the Monson Turnpike.

Wilder, George K.; Charles K. Wilder. Built by Lysander Wilder, 1870.

Williams, Maria (et al) ; Jairus Williams, 1880; Jason Williams, 1854; David H. Grosvenor; Henry Morgan, 1811; Eleazer Bradshaw, 1796. Built by Jonathan Hunter before 1790. (Daniel Wilson 1946)

Willson, Amey L. (Mrs. Henry Hart); Phineas Brooks; Seth Hapgood. It was moved from Main street when Samson Wetherell built his house, 1835.

Willson, Amey and Martha B. W. Day; Robert Willson House, 1889; Capt. Joseph Brown, 1830. Built by Col. Joseph Brown, 1802. Archibald House. Built by William D. Archibald, 1878. Bush House; Joseph Bush; Lorenzo Blanchard, 1870; Benjamin Crockett,

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

1863.

Winsor, Mary A., 1926; Misses C. L. and E. H. Flint; Fred Sanderson; Curtis Sanderson. Built by David Sanderson as early as 1750.

Woods, Eliza, 1917; Eliza Clement, 1886; Lucy Babbitt, 1845. Built in 1842. (Elizabeth Varney 1948)

Woolsey, Alice B., 1911; Henry Hodges; formerly known as the Tanyard House. Towne House; Dwight Towne; Joseph Hines; Amos Johnson, 1846. Built by Luther Holland, 1752, who established the first brickyard in town.

Wright, Franklin C.; John Tiney; Charles Woodward; Anna Giles; James Lee; James Hagar; Ben Sawtelle; James Gillson, 1870.

Yonker, Cornelius; John Yonker, 1896. Built by Hosea Carter, 1847.

## TRUST FUNDS .

From Jared Weed's paper, 1840:

One whole right or one sixty-third part of the whole tract of land granted to the proprietors was reserved for the use of the town schools. The fund arising from the sale of that right is but trifling; it being only \$664.20. The interest of this sum is annually appropriated to the support of the town schools, in addition to the annual grant for that purpose. I am unable to account satisfactorily to my own mind, for the greater difference between the amount of the school fund and that for the support for public worship, which arose principally from the sale of rights originally of equal value. One reason may be the different value of the lands, at the several periods of time when they were sold. A part of the school funds were sold in 1758 for \$140.00 but I have been unable to ascertain the time of the sale of the residue of that right. I have understood that a part of the school fund was lost during the Revolutionary War period in consequence of the derangement of the currency of the country.

The ministerial fund amounts now to \$4975.43. This fund arose from the sale of the right of land reserved for the support of public worship; from the sale of six new pews in the meeting house and from the legacy of Nathaniel McCarty, Esq. The land was sold in 1780 for 6779 bushels and 22 qts. of Indian corn or for as much money as would purchase that quantity at the time of payment. The sum of \$3399.43 was afterwards realized in cash from that sale. Previous to 1819, there was a space in front of the body pews, containing two long seats on each side of the broad aisle, appropriated to the accommodation of the aged people and others whose obtuse sense of hearing required a position near the speaker. The town in its parochial capacity directed those seats to be removed, and their place supplied by six pews.

In August, 1819, those pews were sold for \$576.00 and the amount added to the ministerial fund. And since that time by the commendable liberality of my deceased friend, Mr. McCarty, a further sum of \$1,000.00 has been added, and the whole fund now (1840) amounts to \$4,975.43 which belongs exclusively to the first Parish. Mr. McCarty

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

also devised a further sum of \$500.00 to the first Parish to constitute a permanent fund for the encouragement and promotion of sacred music.

### McCARTY SCHOOL FUND OLD SCHOOL FUND

From Jared Weed's account we learn that some of the school lands laid out with the other lots in 1733 probably in the first division of lands, were sold, and the school fund established in 1758 and when he wrote of it in 1840 he had not been able to locate the other lands.

It has been included in the town report of Trust Funds in every year in varying forms of which the following are quoted:

- 1881-2. Interest received on William McCarty note \$44.46.
- 1885-6. Received interest on McCarty note (old school fund) \$21.00.
- 1889 to 1895. Old school fund invested, note and mortgage, \$350.00. Savings Bank \$385.
- 1898. Old school fund—Savings Bank \$500.00; mortgage and note. \$175.00.
- 1901. Dennis McCarty note \$175. Savings Bank \$500. Old school fund.

Recorded: February 12, 1876. John G. Mudge, in behalf of the town took a mortgage of \$600 on 100 acres of land, belonging to William and Margaret McCarty; the above mortgage was assumed by Dennis McCarty, October 24th, 1890.

May 11th, 1901: Charles D. Williams, town treasurer, in behalf of the town, foreclosed the above mortgage and deeded it to Philip S. Gale, noting in the deed "this being part of the old school fund."

### EXTRACTS FROM WILL OF NATHANIEL McCARTY, 1830

"I give and bequeath \$500 to the town of Petersham, the interest to be appropriated to support the singing on Sunday in their meeting-house, provided the Inhabitants in that town see that part of public worship, decently and properly performed; the principal to be perpetually kept good by a safe investment in land security.



## TRUST FUNDS

“To the said town of Petersham, I also give and devise the further sum of one thousand dollars for the express purpose, and to the use hereafter mentioned, viz:—that the same shall be put out at interest upon good security of real estate and that the interest of said sum of \$1000 shall be applied towards the support of Unitarian preaching in said town and the support of a Teacher of that religious sentiment. If there should hereafter be more than one Unitarian Society in said town, the support of the Teacher of the oldest of said Societies; and my will further is, in this respect, that if the Town of Petersham shall decline to accept said Legacy upon the condition and for the purpose aforesaid, that the said sum of \$1,000 be paid to the assessors of said Unitarian Society if any there be, in trust and upon good security that the income, thereof be applied as aforesaid, and if at any time, hereafter, more than one year shall elapse in which there shall be no settled Teacher in said Town of Petersham the said legacy of \$1,000 as aforesaid shall be paid over by said Town of Petersham or the assessors of said society aforesaid, whichever may have it in trust for the purpose aforesaid, to my residuary legatees or their legal representatives to whom, in that event, I give and bequeath the same. My inducement to the aforesaid bequests to the said Town of Petersham is on a desire to testify the interest which I continue to feel in the place where I have long resided, and where, with the blessing of Heaven, I acquired most property.”

(Wm. and Nathaniel McCarty were sons of Rev. Thaddeus McCarty of Worcester.)

### FROM THE WILL OF LUCRETIA POND

“9th. I give and bequeath to the First Congregational Parish of said Petersham, \$2,000 on condition the same shall be invested and kept as a fund and that the income, from the same shall be devoted as follows to wit: One half to the keeping this church owned by said Parish, painted and repaired, and one half to the support of Liberal Unitarian Preaching.

“10th. I give and bequeath to the town of Petersham in said county of Worcester, Massachusetts, \$2,000 on condition that the

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

said town keep the same invested as a fund, and from the income thereof, devote the sum of \$20.00 each year and every year, to keeping in order the monuments and lot and the grounds in the immediate vicinity of the said lot in the old cemetery where my brother, Asa and my sister Judith repose and where I hope to be buried. The balance of the income from said fund to be used each year as the said town, at its annual meeting may direct.

"13th. I give and bequeath to said town of Petersham, \$1,000 in addition to the amount heretofore bequeathed to be used by the Selectmen of said town in improving, beautifying, and keeping in order the old cemetery in said town."

George S. Mann bequeathed the sum of \$2,000 to the town, one third to be used in care of certain burial lots; the yearly interest of the other two thirds to be added to principal until it amounts to \$5,000, then the interest to be used to purchase books of an historical nature for the Petersham Public Library.

The Charles K. Wilder School Fund provides \$20 each year for prizes in a spelling contest.

—In 1915 the town came into possession of \$1,000 as a trust fund from the estate of Merrick E. Hildreth for the benefit of the public schools.

In 1919 the school fund was further increased by the legacy of Josephine M. Dickman, of \$2,500.

On Feb. 1, 1926, the town accepted \$5,000 from the estate of Elizabeth M. (Ayres) Newton, the income of which is to be used at the discretion of the proper town authorities for the relief of the deserving poor of Petersham.

In March, 1927, the Misses Charlotte and Elizabeth Flint presented the Town of Petersham with a house for a resident physician, in memory of their grandfather Dr. John Flint who sacrificed his life in the epidemic of "Spotted Fever" in Feb. 1810, in Petersham; and also in memory of their father, Dr. John Flint, who for fifty years, 1825-1875, was a physician in the city of Boston. Miss Charlotte L. Flint died six months later, and when Miss Elizabeth H. Flint died in January, 1937, she left a legacy of \$10,000 to the Town of Peters-

## TRUST FUNDS

ham, the income of which is to be paid to the resident physician "to insure the residence of a worthy, competent physician at Petersham". The office chair, medical kit and surgical instruments of the elder Dr. John Flint were given with the house.

Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund—aggregates—\$14,207.

Augustus Wheeler Fund for Flowers for Cemetery, \$1,000.

## TRUST FUNDS

MARCH 1, 1948

Elizabeth M. Newton Charity Fund	\$5,649.29
—Merrick E. Hildreth School Fund	1,000.00
Josephine M. Dickman School Fund	2,500.00
Major McCarthy School Fund	800.00
Flint Fund for Resident Physician	10,000.00
George S. Mann Library Fund	5,046.64
William B Spooner Library Fund	2,027.88
Augustus Wheeler Library Fund	3,000.00
Lucretia Pond Cemetery Fund	3,015.42
Augustus Wheeler Flower Fund	1,000.00
Cemetery General Care Fund	309.66
Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund	<u>15,795.74</u>
	\$50,144.63

## FROM HOWE'S SKETCHES

Ruel Farrar, son of Revd. Joseph Farrar, was a member of a trading firm on the west side of the Common, known as Howe and Farrar. He sold his share to Cyrus Wadsworth about 1816 when the firm name became Howe and Wadsworth, and continued a successful business in general merchandise and farmer's produce on the west side of the Common and on premises later bought by Mr. Simes of Boston. Eventually Mr. Howe retired from the firm and Col. Welcome Wadsworth, brother of Cyrus, joined him under the firm name of C. and W. Wadsworth, which continued until the death of Cyrus in 1827.

North of the Jonas Howe house, was a narrow building used as a store, which was afterwards moved to West St., and is now the Red House owned by Miss Simes.

REPRESENTATIVES SENT TO GENERAL COURT:—John Chandler, 1768; Ephraim Doolittle, 1773-4; Jonathan Grout, 1775, 1779, 1784, 1786, 1787; Samuel Peckham, 1787; Park Holland, 1788-9; Ruggles Spooner, 1790; Daniel Bigelow, 1791-2; records lost by fire from 1792 to 1817; Asa Pond, 1818; Joel Bryant, 1822; Hutchins Hapgood, 1823; Israel Houghton, 1824; Cyrus Wadsworth, 1827; Joseph Gallond, 1829-1830 and 1832; Micajah Reed, 1829-1832-33; Josiah Wheeler, 1830 and 1849; Aaron Brooks, 1834-5; Nahum Gale, 1836-7; Cephas Willard, 1835-38; Seth Hapgood, 1837-1840-1849; Joseph Brown, 1839; Artemus Bryant, 1839-1840; Asa Clark, 1840; Jonas Howe, 1845; Elbridge Miller, 1846; Lyman Robinson, 1848; George White, 1851-1853; Lewis Whitney, 1852; John G. Mudge, 1856-1858-1865; Josiah White, 1861; Hudson Tolman, 1862; Stephen D. Goddard, 1869-1873; Lyman Clark, 1879; Elisha Webb, 1884; George Ayers, 1889; George H. Kelton, 1896 and 1897; Merrick: Hildreth, 1911.

TOWN CLERKS:—Joshua Willard, 1754, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1763; David Sanderson, 1757, 1761, 1762, 1764, 1767, 1776-80; John Chandler, 1768, 1789-92; Jonathan Grout, 1775; William Willard, 1781-4; Park Holland, 1785-6; William McCarty, 1787; Samuel Peckham, 1788; records lost; Jared Weed from 1817-1842; Seth Hap-

## HOWE'S SKETCHES

good, 1843; John L. Gallond, 1844-46; Lyman E. Sibley, 1847; Charles B. Mosely, 1848; Lewis Whitney, 1849-1874; John G. Mudge, 1875; Lewis E. Whitney, 1876-8; H. Nelson Tower, 1879-1881; Sanford B. Cook, 1882-1904; Frank E. Gibbs, 1904-1918; Harry E. Knowlton, 1918-1939; Palmer J. Lord, 1939.

THE TOWN OFFICERS serving long terms since 1850, are Town Clerks:—Lewis E. Whitney, Sanford B. Cook, Frank E. Gibbs, Harry E. Knowlton.

— SELECTMEN:—Joseph W. Upton, Sewall Goddard, Merrick E. Hildreth, Edwin C. Dexter, Charles Coolidge, Charles E. Osgood, William S. MacNutt, Ernest E. Phillips, and Daniel Broderick.

— ASSESSORS:—Col. Josiah White, Frederick Bryant, John A. Carter, Walter A. Bassett and Ernest E. Phillips.

OVERSEERS OF POOR:—Mrs. Elizabeth Gay has served the longest term, thirty years.

— SCHOOL COMMITTEE:—Elisha Webb, Maria N. Ayers, Sanford B. Cook, Sarah Blanchard, Ruby J. Stone, Charles M. Gay, Preston R. Crowell, Adelaide Wilder, Ernest E. Phillips.

TREASURERS:—John G. Mudge, C. DeWitt Williams, Charles W. Gates, M. M. S. Moriarty.

Petersham is noted among other things, for being the birthplace of a remarkable number of men who attained high distinction in the world at large.

Curren J. Andrews, of Brooklyn, N. Y., a distinguished artist and modeler in clay, the vice U. S. Consul to Trieste, Austria.

Honorable Lewis Bigelow, lawyer, congressman and eminent writer on law matters; Peoria, Ill.

Aaron Brooks, college professor and lawyer.

Francis A. Brooks, late of Boston and James W. Brooks of Petersham, both sons of Aaron, and eminent in law and corporation affairs; James W. Brooks was once Vice Consul to Paris, became attorney for mining companies and president of McKay Heeling Company.

Sumner J. Brooks, U. S. Vice Commercial Agent to Hayti and a successful shipping merchant.

C. Frederick Bosworth, inventor of a sewing machine for sewing

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

straw hats and bonnets.

Theodore Clement, a leading shoe dealer in Boston.

Austin I. Flint, M. D., one of New York's most famous physicians, president of the Academy of Medicine and a celebrated lecturer and writer on medical topics.

William Hammond Foster, a distinguished New York banker. His brother, John B. Foster, was prominent in banking in Maine.

Ruel Farrar, who established the palm leaf braiding business in this section.

Capt. Park Holland, one of five sons of Jonas Holland, who served in the Revolutionary War. Was prominent among Washington's soldiers and served also in the campaign to suppress Shay's Rebellion. Afterwards a leading man in legislative and State affairs.

Harrison Holland, nephew of above, inventor and manufacturer of machinery. Father of J. G. Holland the poet.

Charles H. Hapgood, at the head of one of the largest industries for making of agricultural implements in the world, at Alton, Ill.

Pearley Hammond, a leading banker of Worcester.

Timothy Hammond, brother of the above, prominent railroad official of Worcester for thirty-seven years, and father of Ben. T. Hammond a well known musician in Worcester.

Henry J. Hill, solicitor and secretary of the Worcester County Institution of Saving for thirty-two years.

John J. Loring, at one time partner in the largest furniture manufacturing establishment in New York City.

John E. Mason, a distinguished soldier of the Civil War, and afterwards a leading official in the U. S. Pension Office in Washington.

Major Joseph Negus, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, was at Bennington, Lake George, and was made Major by Gov. Samuel Adams.

Hannah Reed, daughter of Rev. Solomon Reed, second minister of the town, wife of Dr. Joseph Flint and mother of Dr. Austin Flint, and grandmother of Sara Jewett the famous actress.

Samuel G. Reed, eminent merchant and banker of Boston.

Capt. Wing Spooner, soldier of the Revolutionary War and a

strong figure in local and State affairs.

William B. Spooner, grandson of above, leading leather merchant of Boston, strong anti-slavery worker, President of Massachusetts Total Abstinence Society for ten years and active in philanthropy.

Warren D. Houghton, sent to Texas by large commission house in Boston, became involved in the movement to free Texas from Mexico, taken prisoner by Mexican troops, finally escaped but lived only a few months, in consequence of hardships endured.

George Stearns, dry goods merchant of large wealth in Baltimore, Md.

Genery Stevens, one of Worcester's largest produce dealers.

Jason W. Stone, a California pioneer, thence going to Australia, and South America. Made a large fortune in the rubber trade.

William Spencer Prentiss, an Indiana pioneer and County Judge.

Col. W. A. Tower, a Boston banker, member of Gov. Rice's staff, councilor under Gov. Butler and a man of large wealth.

Solomon Willard, a man of brilliant gifts, a wonderful draughtsman and designer, was architect of Bunker Hill Monument, and superintendent of its construction for eighteen years.

Dea. Cephas Willard, brother of Solomon, legislator, lawyer and deputy sheriff for forty-eight years, and the leading man of his town all his life, a splendid and imposing figure, dying at the age of nearly ninety-three.

Rev. Samuel Willard, brother of Solomon and Cephas, a distinguished minister of the liberal faith, pioneer in liberal christianity in the Connecticut Valley, preacher at Deerfield for many years. Author of many religious hymns, school books etc.

Rev. Edmund B. Willson, a distinguished preacher at Salem, Mass., for twenty-eight years, Centennial orator at Petersham in 1854. His son, Edmund, an architect of Providence, R. I., planned the Memorial Library building, school house and Unitarian church.

Another son, Robert Willson, was Professor of Astronomy at Harvard and a valuable summer resident of Petersham for many years.

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

Joseph Willson, brother of Edmund B., was a large flour and grain dealer in Bellows Falls, Vt.

John Sanderson, one of the most prominent and successful men in Franklin County, living at Bernardston, an agriculturist, banker, business man, and liberal helper of local institutions.

George B. Williams, one of the great clothing firm of Macullar, Williams and Parker of Boston.

Seth Hapgood, first president of the Miller's River National Bank of Athol, an able business man and legislator.

Rev. Peter Whitney, of Northboro, Mass., born in Petersham, the son of Rev. Aaron Whitney the first minister. Graduated from Harvard in 1762, ordained in Northboro 1767, was the author of an excellent history of Worcester County in 1793. "Was a very methodical man, always walking to church with his wife, followed by his ten children always in the exact order of their age."

Sarah How, daughter of Sylvanus and wife of Joel How, was one of the strong characters of the town. Organized the "Female Benevolent Society" in Dec. 1823, now identified as the "Woman's Alliance".

Mary Ann How, was a woman of more than ordinary ability and marked literary attainments. She was the last of the old time tailor-esses who went from house to house making suits for the men and boys of the family, at fifty cents a day. Her "goose" can be found among the treasures of the Historical Society.

George S. Mann, a descendant of "Master" Ensign Mann, and a successful business man of Boston; as a dry goods merchant, then in the real estate business. As an enthusiastic student of history and geneology, he has left several valuable papers and other contributions.

Merrick E. Hildreth, descendant of some of the earliest settlers of the town, a man of good judgment, honest and faithful in every undertaking, served the town as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor for twenty-six years, and represented his district in Legislature 1911.

Joseph S. Gates of Westboro, a native of Petersham, a successful store manager, and for nearly thirty years has held many responsible offices of the town. Has served his district in the House of Repre-



## HOWE'S SKETCHES

representatives and as a Senator, proving to be a sincere and loyal representative of his people.

George W. Cook of Barre, a native of Petersham, began his business career in the store of Wetherell and Mudge then with Follansby and Dearborn in Barre, later became a successful member of the firm, until poor health compelled him to seek other employment. Became manager of the Davis and Cook Insurance Agency. His rare good judgment, his unflinching determination to carry every good project through to the finish, has kept him a very busy man, not only in his own town, but throughout the County. During his thirty years service as County Commissioner, his shrewd business ability and foresight kept the County out of debt.

Augustus Wheeler of Milford, a native of Petersham, served as a clerk in the Barre National Bank eight years, and in 1874 accepted a position in the Milford National Bank as cashier, which position he held until 1909, when he was elected president, which position he held until his death.

Almond Snith of Athol, has been successful in the lumber business and since 1894 he has been connected with the Diamond Match Co. Has served his town on many committees and twice served as representative of his district.

Jonathan Grout, who was the first contractor of telegraphs by signals in this country and established a telegraph line from Boston to Nantucket. His brothers were Paul and George Grout, the latter the most celebrated athlete of his day, 1795. All three were graduates of Harvard College.

Rev. Cyrus Pitt Grosvenor, a well known Baptist minister.

Charles Goddard, a religious editor, a Professor of Mathematics in Marietta College, Ohio.

Daniel Bigelow, a prominent physician of Columbus, Ohio, and his brother Lewis, a successful lawyer and a member of the Seventeenth Congress from Illinois.

Erastus P. Dean, successful civil engineer and railroad man.

John Flint, M. D., a celebrated physician of Boston for fifty years, 1825-1875.

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

Joseph Bacheldor Goddard was born in Petersham. He entered Williams College two years in advance and graduated in 1816. He was a man six feet two and one-half inches tall and weighed two hundred and forty pounds and was called "the man with a two story head". He was a Congregational minister for many years.

Petersham has proved an ideal place for writers, as several well known authors are numbered among its "natives", "descendants" or "adopted citizens". Hon. Lewis Bigelow wrote a valuable manual on law subjects. Dr. Austin Flint wrote on medical ideas. Mary Green Chandler Ware, daughter of Nathaniel Chandler, wrote "Elements of Character", "Thoughts in My Garden", "Death and Life".

John Green Chandler, son of Nathaniel, was born at the "Deer Farm", Dec. 18th, 1815, and removed to Lancaster with his parents in 1828. In 1840 he wrote the juvenile story of "Chicken Little" with its interesting characters of "Henpen", "Duck Luck", "Drake Lake", "Goose Loose", "Turkey Lurkey", with its inevitable fatal ending when "Foxlox" was taken into confidence. (Reprinted by Herbert H. Hosmer, Jr., of South Lancaster, in 1940) John Chandler was associated with his brother, Samuel Ward Chandler, lithographers, Boston, Mass.

John Fiske, the world famous historian, wrote some of his strongest and best books here. He so loved the town that he said, "Dying means going to Petersham to stay forever". He is buried here, in the town he idolized, the monument marking his last resting place is significant of his high ideals, the light of Heaven, above the perfect world which has arisen from chaos. The Latin inscription signifies "Learn as if to live always; live as if to die tomorrow". He wrote "The Destiny of Man" and "The Idea of God" in Petersham.

George R. R. Rivers of Milton, Mass., wrote "Capt. Shays a Populist of 1786", a fascinating historical novel founded on the fact of Shay's Rebellion and having the scene laid in town, on the Col. Josiah White place then owned by Mr. Rivers.

Francis Z. Stone, descendant of early settlers, has written many live stories for the popular magazines, as well as many poems. We quote his tribute to Woodrow Wilson:—

## HOWE'S SKETCHES

“This is the man who stood, as Moses stood  
On Sinai's Peak and talked with God alone,  
Descending with the Law of Brotherhood  
New graven on entablatures of stone

A moment of effulgence lit the world,  
The tempest ceased, the darkness fled,  
Frayed battle flags around their staffs unfurled;  
Peace like a benediction soothed the dead.

A moment, ere the World's “Te Deum” drowned  
In raudous cries and snarls and trumpetings  
As under Christ, new crucified and crowned,  
Diced for the spoils, the demagogues and kings.

This is the soldier of the Covenant,  
Sore stricken, who maintained steadfast his post,  
When the self-seeking and the sycophant  
Abandoned him to swell the foeman's host.

This is the Soldier of the Covenant,  
Upon his bier lay we the Book and Sword;  
Thine is the Victory to with'old or grant  
Into Thy hands—into Thy hands, O Lord!”

Norman Hapgood, a descendant of Petersham stock, editor of Hearst's Magazine, lecturer and writer, owned a summer home here.

In 1919 Carolyn W. (Clarke) Goodsell published her experiences as a nurse's aide in World War I, in “Evacuation 114”.

Although Reverend Edmund B. Willson, and the Howe-Wilder

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Sketches published in 1915, preserved for the future, records of the most prominent personages of the past, and the fact that the purpose of this publication is to avoid, as far as possible, personal eulogies, there are three outstanding characters, two of them natives, who deserve a place in these pages.

### ERWIN OREN HATHAWAY

Erwin Oren Hathaway was born in the Willson house near Petersham Common on November 8, 1867, the oldest son of Leander T. and Ellen (Spooner) Hathaway. His boyhood and school days spent in Petersham were similar to those of every other boy of that time, but his determination to obtain a higher education took him through the trying experience of working his way through the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where he was graduated in 1889. He spent several years in railroad engineering on the properties of the Boston & Albany Railroad, and in 1902 he entered highway work as a division engineer in the New Hampshire State Highway Department. In 1908, he became city engineer of Nashua, New Hampshire. In 1913, he resigned this position to accept an appointment as one of the original Federal Highway Engineers. The Federal Government under Woodrow Wilson, organized twelve Federal District Units, required under the Federal Aid Road Act passed by Congress and signed by the President in 1916. The headquarters of District Number 4 was established in St. Paul, Minnesota, and included Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The duties involved in Mr. Hathaway's district has not only included construction and maintenance of highways and bridges, ranging from small culverts to the large Missouri River bridges, and from gravel roads to super-highways but has included extension studies of design, use of materials and equipment, traffic control, and the economic life of various kinds of pavements and structures; thus the success of certain processes of construction in any one state have become available to all the states in the Union. Mr. Hathaway has been associated with the construction of many large bridges including the Memorial Bridge at Bismarck, N. D. and the development of the

## HOWE'S SKETCHES

super highway around Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Milwaukee. In his seventeen years as district engineer, Mr. Hathaway has approved over 2400 Federal projects involving over \$250,000,000. In private life, Mr. Hathaway has always been associated with the Baptist Church as Sunday School superintendent, deacon and trustee. On June 23, 1892, he was married to Nina V. Russell, who was born in South Athol and who died in 1931. Three sons survive their father: Leander Russell, Lieutenant Colonel in the regular army at Vicksburg, Miss.; Chester Erwin of Athol, engineer with the Metropolitan District Water Supply Company; Herbert Frederick, electrical engineer for the General Electric Company in Washington, D. C.

### HARRY ETHAN KNOWLTON

On March 23, 1939, occurred the death of Harry E. Knowlton, ending a career seldom attained by the boys of our town without the advantages of a college education or financial backing by influential friends. Naturally fond of study, quick with figures, interested in historical processes and possessing a wonderful memory, he easily fitted into the official staff of the town and carried the real responsibilities of the town's business. For twenty-two years he was town clerk and registrar, clerk of the board of assessors, and town accountant. He was elected secretary, overseer, and master of Petersham Grange, and master of the Worcester-Franklin Pomona Grange. Cheerful and accommodating always, he was a valued neighbor and friend.

### MARY ANN LEAMY

Mary Ann Leamy was born in Templeton, the daughter of Michael and Honora (Harty) Leamy. The family moved to Petersham in 1866 and she received her education in School District No. 5, and the Petersham High School.

Upon leaving the High School she taught in her home District No. 5; in 1888-1889 she taught in Ledgeville, District No. 4; in 1890-1891 she was teacher in the Nichewaug District No. 7, when the following statement appears in the town report of 1891: "All the pupils

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

and most of the parents think Mary A. Leamy is perfect, so we leave it there”.

In 1894, she went to teach the West Street School in Gardner. In 1903, she was appointed as the second principal of the Connors' Street School, which position she held seven years. Then came a year of training in the Massachusetts General Hospital for special study of tuberculosis and social work. In November, 1910, she returned to Gardner to start the work for the Gardner Tuberculosis League which was taken over by the town in 1916, continuing her valuable services until her retirement in June, 1939. Individuals have turned to her to advise them in sharing their wealth or their mite; civic and service clubs have appealed to her for advice in dispensing funds. Long will be remembered her work so untiringly and unselfishly done during the terrible epidemic of influenza in 1919. Her quick, warm sympathy, her understanding heart, and her natural determination to see things through to the finish in matters of justice and humanity, have won for her the title of the “Best loved woman in Gardner”. She continues her residence in Gardner.

From “*The Gardner Daily News*”

TO MARY

(Affectionately dedicated to Mary A. Leamy, from her old associates  
of the Fourth Estate)

I sing a lady's praise,  
I'll sing them without end;  
A dear and kindly person  
Who's everybody's friend;  
Who comforted the weary,  
The ailing and the weak,  
While tired mothers blessed her  
With hearts too full to speak.

## HOWE'S SKETCHES

Just three lines in the paper,  
    Requesting this or that—  
And people rushed to Mary  
    With gifts, in nothing flat;  
We used to get her bathrobes,  
    And even feather beds,  
Along with stoves and crutches  
    And shiny skates and sleds.

And now, while she's retired,  
    Away from City Hall,  
We folks who print The Daily  
    Insist she stay on call;  
Because, come next December,  
    We'll need her at the wheel,  
To help us all put over  
    The Christmas Kids appeal.

We're glad to do her honor,  
    We shower her with praise  
For service to humanity,  
    Performed in many ways;  
And, Mary, all the nice things  
    They say of you tonight,  
You take them and believe them,  
    They fit exactly right!

—Joe Colton

## PETERSHAM IN 1940

“This watch tower of the faith, set on a hill  
Has yet, perchance, a purpose to fulfill  
As when, of old, men looked to it, and knew  
New England kept the nation’s conscience still.”

Francis Z. Stone, 1904.

Two hundred and seven years since those first settlers took up their claims in the wilderness among the Indians and wild beasts, and what a different picture is presented today as a result of the constantly ever changing scenes!

Our boundaries, once marked by heaps of stones, notched trees, or dead oaks, have mostly been replaced by substantial stone walls, that represent years of hard labor in building; oxen that spent long dreary years of hauling and plowing have disappeared while their work is accomplished in much less time by horses and tractors. All the water mills are gone leaving only a few steam mills for lumbering, while the grist grinding has been taken over by the great western concerns. Gone, also, are the box shop, the keg factory, the brass foundry, all the blacksmithing, the button shop, the scythe and pitchfork manufactory, the businesses of the cabinet maker, the ladder maker, and the cheese factory, the palm-leaf splitting, hat braiding, and shaker-hood shop. No longer the tailoress and shoemaker make their annual tour of homes for fifty cents a day and lodging. No longer do our town warrants provide articles to allow “The swine to run at large duly yoked and ringed”. Nor is it necessary to elect the tything-man. Eleven school houses and seven church buildings have been destroyed, and four religious societies have ceased to exist. The time honored Lyceum, spelling bee, quilting party and husking bee are no longer a part of the routine schedule. Flax is no longer a staple product to insure beautifully woven linen for the table and bed. Countless homes have been built, served their purpose, been destroyed and, sad to relate, forgotten. Thousands of human beings have sojourned here, perhaps loved the place, and did their bit of ser-





Watering Trough which was on the Barre Road (at the junction of Russell Road) until about 1930.



## *PETERSHAM IN 1940*

vice to the community only to be unrecorded and unsung. But let us turn more cheerfully to the present, and what have we today!

The blessed hills, valleys, brooks and ledges are exactly as they were in the beginning. Most of the rivers are again unhampered by the milldam, and much of the forests have been turned into lumber. The Arbutus is still the first welcome guest of spring as it was three hundred and twenty years ago when the squaw viewed it as just another ingredient to brew with sarsaparilla, pipsissua and boneset for her essential herb relish.

Hard roads replace the "Bridle paths as now trod". Electricity replaces the light of candle and whale oil of a hundred years ago. Distances and time are shortened or eliminated by the telephone, telegraph, radio, automobile and airplane. Turkeys are no longer fattened on the white oaks on our hillsides, but the pheasant and partridge are the welcome friends of the hunter and children. Milk no longer conveys the deadly germs of the white plague, smallpox, and diphtheria. Health laws have nearly eliminated all epidemics. Weaving, knitting, needle work, metal and wood turning have assumed the position of recreation rather than absolute necessities.

Under state and town provision, our public records are properly kept, public grounds properly cared for and property protected from fire and vermin. Schools, with an enrollment of 177, average a net cost per pupil per day of 44 cents for maintenance. Phillip Arnold is principal of the Central School, Ledgeville being the only surviving district school. A high standard Memorial Library, containing 12,000 volumes. Several public houses are maintained without liquor sales; two general stores kept by Henry I. Goodsell and Daniel Broderick, three live churches with their respective houses of public worship and parsonages for their ministers, and the Petersham Exchange, strengthened by the Handicraft Society caters to the summer population and the traveling public, under the able management of Mrs. Edith Haveland.

The Library is in charge of the librarians, Mrs. Cleo Warren and Mrs. Winifred Moriarty. Educational and social activities are enhanced by the sixty-five years of continuous service of Petersham

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Grange, the six year old Fortnightly Forum, the ladies' societies and young peoples' societies of the churches. The town is supplied with agricultural products, through the mediums of the vegetable trucks of Winnie Ball and the Buell Brothers. The milk is no longer supplied by neighbor to neighbor but from the larger dairies of George K. Wilder, Franklin Johnson, and George B. Gale. The great Howe farms that once contributed beef and grain to the soldiers in the Revolutionary War, are now supplying immense quantities of farm products to the city of Gardner under the present ownerships of Frederick W. Elliott and F. Arthur Coolidge. Results that can be obtained from an ordinary Petersham farm by intelligent and careful planning with the co-operation of neighbors and hired help is illustrated by Mr. Elliott's record of products shipped to Gardner in March, 1940, as follows:

26,917 quarts of milk (19,811 quarts of it made on his own farm).

422 quarts of skimmed milk.

180 quarts of butter milk.

450 dozen eggs.

1,015 quarts of heavy cream (increased in April to 11,243 quarts).

74 quarts light cream (increased in April to 611 quarts).

The Petersham Brass Band, organized by Reverend R. C. Douthit, is maintained by twenty-two middle aged men, under the able leadership of Basil Coolidge. Popular band concerts are given on the band stand on Tuesday evenings during July and August each summer. Mrs. Margaret Withington has been at the head of the telephone exchange since she succeeded Hattie Sawtelle in July, 1929. Henry Jewett Green, formerly of Worcester, has a most interesting pottery business, while his wife is the acknowledged expert in fine weaving and rug making. Three of the Petersham boys have succeeded in obtaining licenses as airplane pilots: Warren Russell, Roderick Amidon, and Maxwell Clark. Charles Waid is assistant mechanic on an aerial bomber in Honolulu.

The Edgehill Poultry Plant, under the management of Laurence Fisher, has for several years been successfully established. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Babbitt have an extensive business in collecting and sel-

## PETERSHAM IN 1940

ling to colleges and institutions, a great variety of snakes, frogs, lizards, etc., giving lectures on this subject illustrated by colored moving pictures. Albert Brunelle is the lone barber in town and Earle Marsh the only licensed taxi driver. Arthur Preble has the local express route to Athol, is the fire chief, and heads the local police force of three constables. The trade of the "joyner" or carpenter is ably and amply carried on by the Bryant Brothers, Leroy and Albert; Bert G. Smith; Robert Larson; Emory Gray, and Burt C. Coolidge and son Basil. Royal Withington is the only mail carrier as the Barre mail has been discontinued since 1923. The two outgoing mails to Athol are at 8 A. M. and 4 P. M. The incoming mails arrive at 9:20 A. M. and 5:20 P. M. Mrs. Kathryn Broderick Smith is the present postmaster, ably assisted by former postmaster, Palmer J. Lord. Dr. Richard J. R. Caines has been the established town physician for two years.

### CENSUS OF PETERSHAM POPULATION

Year		Year	
1765 .....	707	1870 .....	1335
1790 .....	1560	1880 .....	1109
1800 .....	1794	1890 .....	1050
1810 .....	1490	1900 .....	853
1820 .....	1623	1910 .....	757
1830 .....	1696	1920 .....	642
1840 .....	1775	1930 .....	660
1850 .....	1543	1940 .....	922
1860 .....	1465		

Petersham is located in the northwestern part of Worcester County and close to the very center of the State of Massachusetts. Petersham in England is the only other town in the world bearing the same name, except a small town in Australia.

The center of the town is 1187 feet above sea level, and Petersham Street, the highest point in the township, is about 1300 feet.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| No. 1. Clay Pit.            | No. 9. Teeter Rock             |
| No. 2. Grindingstone.       | No. 10. Lion's Den.            |
| No. 3. Peter Gore's Spring. | No. 11. Natural Bridge.        |
| No. 4. Bell Rock.           | No. 12. Center of Town.        |
| No. 5. Underground Spring.  | No. 13. Stone Watering Trough. |
| No. 6. Devil's Den.         | No. 14. Spring Lot.            |
| No. 7. Rum Rock.            | No. 15. John Fiske's Monument. |
| No. 8. Indian Cave          | No. 16. Fisher Memorial        |
- See 1940 map.

## WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Preceding historians, who have been so lavishly endowed financially and mentally, enjoying a few months each year recuperating from the strain of business, have looked upon Petersham as a haven of quiet, rest, and recreation, emphasizing the fact that its isolation from railroad, sea, and industrial centers made the cultivation of its natural resources and beauties imperative to the subsistence and happiness of its inhabitants, seeing only its recreational possibilities. The native resident of today is faced with the more serious problem of maintaining a respectable existence for the entire year and for a life time, so he views the town's possibilities from an entirely different angle. Azure skies, roaring brooks, and wonderful scenery will not suffice to pay the taxes, feed the hungry, and pay the upkeep of the automobile, movie, and radio. Eight months of the year, or more than half of it, is by no means, "The good old summer time", while the expenses of winter, when the only employed business men are the doctor and iceman, are even greater than the expense in the summer.

The time has come when thinking people realize that homes in the country are less expensive, less restrained, and superior for retaining health than city homes. The town is no longer isolated but has become a part of a great system of towns and business bound together by a network of State highways, that reduce distances to a few hours that formerly required days to accomplish, enabling thousands of trucks and pleasure cars daily, to traverse the roadways bent on business as well as pleasure, affording a market for the native grown products which appeal to the passerby.

Petersham possesses ample acreage and the man power to produce the best quality of small fruits and vegetables. The Handicraft Society has developed the ability to create fine needlework, knitting, metal, and woodwork, apparently leaving as the only link between high class production and a ready market, the co-operation in arrangement of sales. This is bound to be accomplished in the near future as a goal for a self-sustaining community; the superb natural location and scenery serving to bring the market to the producer instead of sending the products to the congested city markets,

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

competing with those from the west and south.

With plenty of land of all descriptions and with the various lines included in the development of the Handicraft Society, every man, woman, and child should find employment along the line of his own choice or preferment.

### TOWN OFFICERS — 1940

*Moderator*—Ernest E. Phillips.

*Town Clerk*—Palmer J. Lord.

*Treasurer*—Murtock M. S. Moriarty.

*Tax Collector*—Martin C. Russell.

*Selectmen*—Clarence N. Russell, Ernest E. Phillips, George K. Wilder.

*School Committee*—Ernest E. Phillips, Charles E. Buell, Edith O. Gale.

*Town Accountant*—William E. Langstreth.

*Assessors*—Benjamin F. White, Charles E. Buell, Ernest E. Phillips.

*Planning Board*—Reverend Earl C. Davis, Chester A. Belden, John C. Nelson, Henry I. Goodsell, Albert C. Cline, Dorothy E. Bates, Elizabeth Carpenter.

*Superintendent of Streets*—William B. Barnes.

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*Minister of North Congregational Church*—Reverend James T. Carter.

*Minister of the Unitarian Church*—Earl C. Davis.

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### Data taken from the Tax Book of 1938:

Acres of land assessed .....	20,305
Number of dwellings .....	280
Number of persons .....	344
Value of land .....	\$439,089
Value of buildings .....	\$794,422
Value of Assessed Real Estate .....	\$1,233,511
Number of horses .....	65
Number of cows .....	312
Number of fowl .....	4,607
Number of sheep .....	1



## WHAT OF THE FUTURE

Number of goats . . . . .	6
Value of Town Property exempt from Taxation . . . . .	\$106,850
Value of Property under Chapter 59 of the General Laws . . . . .	\$234,013

The first news sheet ever to be devoted exclusively to Petersham interests was issued on May 15th, 1940, entitled "The Petersham Star", under the able management of George Whitten.

On July 24th the business was taken over by Robert Newbury as editor with Richard Moriarty and Frederick Snow as publishers. Its clean, snappy, up-to-the-minute news items are winning a widening of its circulation.

The Art Colony has an important place in Petersham life of 1940. Laura Amsden, teacher of art in the schools, has developed wonderful results among the pupils as well as amazing success in metal work and jewelry in the handicrafts society. Mrs. Martha Willson Day is proficient in miniature painting, and Susan Flint's ability in painting from life is exemplified in the collection of Petersham mushrooms in the Library, and is successful in lithography and block printing. Miss Dorothy Eaton has exhibited several landscapes and taken prizes here and in New York. Mrs. Carolyn Goodsell made the enlarged copy of Bosworth's picture of "Petersham Common in 1835". She painted "The Bandconcert on the Common" and various landscapes and portraits. Charles H. Gray, an architect, has done some wonderful block printing.

At the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Sept. 15th to 22nd, the Petersham Handicrafts Society displayed sixteen hundred dollars worth of products, with demonstrations in weaving by Mrs. Winifred Moriarty; spinning by Mrs. Lillian Marsh.

Each year the Village Improvement Society gives a first prize of \$20.00 and a second prize of \$15.00 to the highest ranking scholar graduating from the college preparatory course.

Two earthquake shocks were felt in Petersham with a force of rattling windows and cracking cement on the following dates: Dec. 20th, 1940, Friday morning, 2:28 to 2:30; Dec. 24th, 1940, Tuesday, at 8:50 A. M.

In 1940, occurred the first peace time draft of manpower in the

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

history of this country. On Oct. 16th, 16,750,000 men, aged 21 to 35 years of age, registered for a year's military training, and on Oct. 29th, the draft of 5,400,000 was made, for selective training and education.

On Nov. 5th, 1940, occurred the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt for a third consecutive term, unprecedented in the history of this country, when he polled 25,168,547 votes against 22,000,000 votes cast for Wendall L. Willkie, nominee of the Republican party.

## FINIS

And now, at the close of 1940 we close the book. What future historians will find to tell nobody knows, but at the present time we look forward with a touch of apprehension. We read unhappy headlines, and listen to dark news over the radio.

The German Nazis in Europe, under the leadership of Adolf Hitler, have absorbed their helpless little neighbors, taken control of northern France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Norway, and while this is being written, they are pounding cruelly at the British Isles. Britain, with bulldog determination, is fighting bravely and fiercely back, and we, across the Atlantic, are praying that Democracy may win. For democracy is our birthright, and totalitarianism is unthinkable. Hitler, in spite of his high authority, is protected by a powerful bodyguard, and when he addresses his people he stands behind bullet-proof glass. King George VI and his gracious Queen Elizabeth stroll leisurely about the streets of London. Democracy, at any cost, must be preserved.

Britain has granted to the United States a string of air and naval bases from Newfoundland to British Guiana in exchange for fifty destroyers which they will gratefully and speedily use. Our National Guard has been called to take intensive training at the Army Bases. Men between the ages of 21 and 35 are subject to conscription and training for warfare. Women are knitting mufflers and sweaters for the Red Cross.

What will Petersham do? She will do exactly as she has always done—stand firm for the preservation of her homes. Our rocks and rills and wooded hills are as dear today as they were in 1775, and our determination to keep them free is just as strong. As in the days of the Revolution, "Should the voracious jaws of tyranny" reach us, "which God in His Infinite Mercy prevent", the men and women of Petersham will fight, as their ancestors did, for their right to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." E. E. C. D.

SUPPLEMENT  
WORLD WAR II

**T**he publication of this History having been delayed by World War II, the data for this supplement was collected by Emma Barnes, at the request of the Book Committee, in order to bring the History up to date.

*K. T. Dexter*  
*A. W. Hart*  
*C. W. Goodsell*

# PETERSHAM IN WORLD - WAR II

Data collected by  
Emma Brunelle Barnes

President of the Petersham Historical Society, 1948

As we moved forward through the years 1940 to 1948 they were filled with activities. The Metropolitan Water Commission turned over to Petersham the remaining part of Dana and it's problems. We missed the jaunts and visits to those places which were gradually hidden by the rising waters of the reservoir.

The library became a center of activity. The war in Europe brought the local Red Cross and the French and British Relief into action. The library building was used for their meetings during the warm weather and private homes in winter. Madame Caines, our physician's wife, let no chance pass to help her countrymen, the French. Mrs. Henry Jewett Greene was one of those who worked hard and long for the British Relief. The ladies of all the church societies worked for these causes.

The handicraft society also used the Memorial Building. Some of the old time arts were revived and shown there, among others the beautiful pottery of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jewett Greene, who have their work-shop and kiln at their home "Greentop". Paintings in oils and water-color and photographs of local scenes and people were also exhibited.

Miss Laura Amsden's metal work classes showed fine work; also the needlecraft group which meets often and exhibits every year at the agricultural fair. Old time rug-hooking has become a new art and the rugs, things of beauty.

Some of the men and boys have been doing wood-working; making useful things from local wood. Mr. Leroy Bryant taught one group.

Supervisors from the State Department of Education who visited our schools found our educational facilities above average for a rural community.

1941 found us still using surplus commodities for lunches at the schools, but with the war we suddenly discovered "rationing" was

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

worse. The children wished the "commodities" were back.

When the peace time draft came into being, Petersham saw the first of her young men don uniforms for their country. Petersham lived in full awareness of the conflict going on around the world. Our young men saw service on every part of the globe. Their service records are proof that whatever this community gave them they gave back a hundred fold with honor. Our "War Service Committee" has kept a scrapbook of their letters which will be kept in the historical building to supplement the records which we hope to complete in the future for the Historical Society. No family was left without someone in the armed services, and one mother, Mrs Myrtle (Coolidge) LePoer, had all her five sons in uniform; while Mrs. John Anderson had three.

We formed a committee of ten women which we called the "War Service Committee". Its purpose was to maintain an honor roll of our young men and women with the colors, and to keep contact with them as best we could in war, to show that our love and interest was still with them all through everything. We mailed mimeographed newsletters to them every three or four months and put in as much as we could gather and send under the postal regulations. This we called "The Tatler". It was fun to prepare and was well received. Our committee also raised money for Christmas packages and birthday remembrances as well as a gift of some sort to wish each one "Godspeed". Everyone rose to the task of making the burden easy. Generosity and cooperation was never greater in any town. A reprint of a "Tatler" follows:

### THE TATLER (December 1944)

December 7, 1944—third anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Petersham is still here among the hills, at least part of it. Those of us who are left at home manage to "get by". We go to the Post Office, and the store (Ed. Hutchinson's Store is something); we even had an election last month; so far as I can see no one is either hungry or cold;

## WORLD WAR II

we sleep in beds; and we do not wash in helmets. Do not worry about us—we are all O.K.

But you must realize that Petersham is lonesome without you boys and girls. However much everybody, wherever you are, likes you, we like you much more, very much more. So, at this Christmas Season, think of us as we will be thinking of you. May it be as merry as conditions permit, and bear in mind that here on the hills of Petersham Christmas Trees are growing for you and your children in the years of peace towards which we move.

Sincerely yours,  
Rev. Earl C. Davis

As I write, all the folk "back home" are already thinking of Christmas. The store windows are filled with presents and toys and glittering things of all descriptions. We are hoping to see a tree on the Common lighted with its many colored lights and its crowning star shining far over to the East. Yes! We are planning what family gatherings can be arranged and the Churches will be having their Christmas Trees for we must bring to the youngsters what Christmas joy is possible.

But behind all these pleasant things to look upon and in the family parties and Christmas Trees, there will be a sense of "something missing". In every gathering there will be the thought expressed or unexpressed, "I wonder where Jack is and what he is doing?" or "Do you suppose Peggy is having any Christmas Dinner to-day?" Sure, we'll be thinking of you all through this Christmas Season.

What will bring a bright ray into a gray world is the hope that rings loud in all our hearts that this will be the last Christmas of its kind. Before the snows of winter come again we hope and pray that our Victory may be complete and that you may be home again to hear the bells ring out their message of "Peace on earth, good will toward men". Till then God be with you all.

Rev. James T. Carter

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

My dear Boys from Petersham;

Christmas finds you again separated from your loved ones and home, yet we see a gleam of hope that this will be your last Christmas fighting for God and Country.

When your minds go back, on Christmas-eve, to the stable at Bethlehem, and in spirit you kneel before the crib of the Infant Jesus, the King of Peace (for all the world was at peace the night that He was born, and the angels sang of peace and goodwill among men) ask Him to grant us the blessing of a just and lasting peace, that undisturbed by war and its attendant evils, we may praise Him and bless Him forever.

We will unite our prayers with yours, asking the God of Mercy to bless you and protect you, to give you the grace to triumph over our enemies, thus retaining that liberty which we cherish as a precious inheritance from our forebears, we may remain free to praise Him and bless Him.

Rev. James P. Costello

### HONORS COME TO PETERSHAM SERVICEMEN

(Autumn 1944)

Sergeant Bernard LePoer has been awarded the Air Medal. No word has been received as to the circumstances under which the award was made. We hope to have more of the details soon!

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The Air Medal was recently awarded to Captain Elbridge C. Bates for strafing a German Anti-aircraft Battery. To this honor Captain Bates has added ten Oak Leaf Clusters! Recently the Captain took part in an operation in which sixteen American planes intercepted eighty German planes and shot down six, one of which Elbridge bagged.

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Pfc. Robert F. Baldwin is among the members of the First Marine Division, Reinforced, to whom a Presidential Citation has been awarded for gallantry in action in the Solomon Islands. Now a member of a medical corps, he has been in the service since November,



## WORLD WAR II

1941. He obtained his basic training at Camp Edwards, and has seen service at Tulagi, Guadalcanal, Gavutu, Tanambogo and Florida as well as other points in the South Pacific.

### CONGRATULATION BOYS.

Letters. . . . . We thought that you might enjoy two very interesting accounts from Petersham men on opposite sides of the globe. The first is a part of a letter written to his mother from Sergeant Roger Coolidge "some where on the Anzio Beachhead"—

"——A couple of other fellows and I got tired of washing our clothes by hand so we built a washing machine on the order of your Maytag, wringer and all. We run it with a gasoline engine instead of electricity and it really works too. It even gets the grease out of my clothes and that is something.

Well mother, in my last letter I promised to tell you some of the places I have been so here goes. We landed first in Casablanca, but by the time we arrived everything had quieted down. There were rumors that there were snipers about but we didn't run into any.

We got off the boat just before dark and as we lined up to start our seven mile hike to our bivouac, it began to rain. It rained only long enough to get us wet and lower our morale. We spent a couple weeks in the bivouac area until our equipment could be unloaded from the boats. Those weeks were really very enjoyable as we could go swimming every day.

After we got our equipment, we moved into the center of Casablanca. It is a very picturesque place. We had to keep everything under lock and key or the Arabs would help themselves. And we had trouble with them walking in the middle of the streets. I guess they have never learned what sidewalks are for.

From Casablanca we went to Algiers and set up A. A. Defenses. While stationed in Algiers, our Motor Transportation Officer and I went to Bone with trucks to move an English outfit. While in Bone, we saw Flying Forts going over to bomb Sicily. There were so many planes that they blacked out the sun and it sure was good to be able

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

to look up and say 'they are ours'.

Soon after that trip I went to a motor proofing school in Oran. After getting back from the school, I waterproofed our jeep and took it in the ocean. We took it out over our heads and as we started back, a big wave went over the top of our carburator intake and stalled the motor so we had to be hauled in.

We left Algiers for Matuor and shortly went on to Palermo. This was without doubt the cleanest place we had been. The Italians were fairly friendly but they hadn't forgotten the bombing they got there.

From Palermo we headed for Italy, with an overnight bivouac in Messina. It was a year to the day from the time that we landed in North Africa until we set foot on the mainland of Italy. We then went into Bivouac outside of Naples, preparing to go into front line combat—the first we had done since being overseas. After spending several months at this, we were called back to re-organize to be in on the invasion at Anzio.

I was among the ones selected as the advance detail of the outfit. We got on a L. S. T. in Naples and spent a day in the harbor. The following night we pulled out and reached Anzio the next morning. We didn't unload until the next day as there was very little space. While sitting in the harbor, we had several air raids but they did little damage. However, Jerry soon woke up and we could depend on an air raid every mealtime and two or three at night. He sure made it hard for us to sleep. . . . ."

AND THIS—from Sergeant Lawrence Nelson's letter from New Guinea. . . . . "I received the Tatler quite some time ago and was very glad to get it, to find out what the different fellows were doing. I'll try to give you in brief my trip over here.

We were not in California too long before we boarded the boat which started us on this big adventure. We left the shores of America May 6 and started westward under the Golden Gate bridge, which, by the way, is worth seeing. The first couple of days out were rather rough and plenty were seasick. No, I didn't get it, but those steel

## WORLD WAR II

helmets can be used for more things than I thought. We slept on deck every night unless driven in by the rain and then what a fight for a *spot*!

On our tenth day at sea we crossed the equator and as is the custom there were ceremonies that I'll never forget. We crossed the International Date Line May 21, Sunday, and our next day was Tuesday, May 23.

None of us had any idea where we were going but we hoped it might be Australia. However, we landed on New Guinea and were taken to our destination on trucks where we started a new kind of life. The country here is hot and steaming. I have seen a few natives. They fascinated us at first but now we pay no attention to them. It's fun to watch them go up a tree and crack open a coconut.

We are having plenty of recreation and activity here. There are movies nearly every night with news between reels, boxing, music, and baseball. I must mention that our company team has yet to be beaten. By the way, the food is good.

During July I started taking parachute training and July 21, I took my first jump. I sprained my left ankle so I had to wait three weeks before I could get my others in. So with each jump, I become a more experienced para-trooper".

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George Brunelle changed boats as often as he did his cars. We hear that he is now on a destroyer. By the way, he takes pains to explain that the T. M. after his name doesn't mean "Tis Mince" or "Taint Mince" but rather Torpedoman's Mate. Thanksgiving dinner aboard ship was tops.

David Thomas has completed his training at Dartmouth V-12 and is now stationed at Parris Island, S. C.

Arthur Reid is right in there "pitching" and we don't mean hay this time. He says a helmet is a healthy thing to wear.

George Barnes is now stationed at Purdue University. It seems the "Boiler-makers" turn out M. E. Marines too. Who knows?

Peter Waldo has an overseas address now and we all wish him the best of luck.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

Roger Gordon was wounded in France in September and has been in the hospital ever since. It was a foot injury and it is good news to hear that he has discarded his cane and will soon move to a rehabilitation hospital. He was in General Patton's army and saw action for 93 days in the thick of it before being wounded. We hear that you enjoyed the World Series, Roger! Best of luck from us all.

Captain Elbridge C. Bates is home for Christmas on a thirty day leave after having completed seventy-six missions. He has been awarded three Silver Oak Leaf Clusters. "Cap" expects to return to his base in Belgium.

Robert Towne is in the Infantry now since they broke up his Anti-aircraft Outfit. He is now training at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma.

Norman Stanford was wounded in the assault on Peleliu in September. He has made a rapid recovery and is now enrolled in a six week's course in a Naval Gunnery School.

Bill Efesik was home at Ruth Harty's for a brief furlough and reported back to a new base.

Lloyd Mitchell is in good health we hear and is now a Corporal. Congratulations and we are glad that the Christmas package was on time for Thanksgiving!

George Kenney isn't requesting snow pictures this year. He's seeing the real thing at Newport. It is good to see him so frequently.

T/ Sgt. Exton Elliott still finds his travels in Italy real pleasant and of interest "in spite of the war" although the hills of home would look best to him, especially at this time of year.

Lester Armstrong likes his work at Lovell General Hospital—no dull moments!

Edward Bassett says the army is all right; they keep him busy, but Marion's cooking is still the best. We suspect "an axe to grind", Ed.

Ernest Bassett took a look at London. We are waiting to hear about that "Colonel".

Clare Coolidge has joined the Navy, so we add another of the Coolidge relationship to our honor roll.

Richard Bryant awaits his day of departure for the armed forces.

## WORLD WAR II

We adopt another girl for our service roster. 2nd Lt. Helen F. Lehman who is with the 130th Evacuation Hospital, Semi-Mobile. Some of you boys may remember her since she was originally a Petersham-ite and her family has once more come to live in Petersham. By the way, she is cousin to Horace Coolidge.

We are glad to hear that Bill Perkins is well and even putting on weight. He is in the Southwest Pacific and is getting in a little guitar playing and swimming on the side.

Albert Taylor is in Holland. We wish we had more news of you, Bertie.

Ben LePoer has received an Oak Leaf Cluster. His father and mother were thrilled to receive a Christmas card from Benny's crew—this included a picture of him and his nine buddies.

Kenneth Buell's marriage in England to a Canadian girl, Katherine Johnson, has been announced.

Mr. and Mrs. Gray are looking forward to seeing Richard and his wife at Christmas if he gets his expected furlough.

Ellis Barnes attended a party in Los Angeles where he met the movie actor, Frank Morgan.

Lt. Com. Roger L. Putnum has been put on the inactive list by the Navy so that he can serve as Deputy Director of the Office of Contract Settlement. He and Mrs. Putnum are now living in Washington.

Roger L. Putnum, Jr. is finishing his training in the pilots' group in the Army Air Corps at Stewart Field.

2nd Lt. William L. Putnum received his commission in November at Fort Benning, Ga. and has returned to his outfit in Texas.

Mrs. Murcell kindly loaned her paintings and trophies sent from Gerald from Guadalcanal. These were exhibited at the library during book week.

Edwin Anderson now in sunny California met an old acquaintance and spent a pleasant day with her.

Rev. Earl C. Davis has always been so very helpful to the Service Committee in everything we have tried to do and he is very genuinely interested in each and everyone of you, and so we know that

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

you will be interested to hear of his sons in the service. Bill Davis is a tactical officer in the Officers' Training School at Fort Benning, Ga. Foster is a submarine officer on his ship somewhere in the Pacific area. We hear that he lost sections (!) of his wearing apparel in a recent hurricane. Hang on there!

Elmer Snow has been sending home interesting accounts of his life in Burma.

THE RED AND WHITE STORE. . . . This summer the general store on the Common changed hands when Mr. H. I. Goodsell sold his business to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hutchinson. They reopened under the RED AND WHITE sign which now hangs over the doorway. Petersham feels quite metropolitan pushing the self-service "go-carts" around and lining up to be checked off. That takes longer these days too, with red and blue ration stamps to be figured up. The market has offered a fine variety of meats and one may have fish on order!

One of the exciting angles of all this was the sale of old stock which was held upstairs in the Grange Hall. Evidently it had been accumulating for a good many years! "Hutch" and Pauline aroused a good deal of advance interest with their posters.

We quote:

"SALE      SALE      SALE      SALE

UNDERWEAR—All wool—Some a yard wide

Everything from pants to panties  
Be sure to see our lace trimmed  
numbers.

CLOTHING-OVERALLS-PETTICOATS-KNEE BREECHES

Also a Remarkable Collection of  
Odds and Ends from Curtain Rods  
to Circingles, and a few "Name it  
and you can have it".

## WORLD WAR II

COME AND HELP US CLEAN HOUSE—If You Can't  
Use It, Buy It and Put it in the  
Barrel for War Relief—The Greeks  
won't care if the shoes do have  
pointed toes!

SALE      SALE      SALE      SALE"

### NEWS

The Alliance sponsored a dance Labor Day night and it seemed like old times to see George Kenny, back from the Pacific area swinging through the square dances.

Pvt. Victor Johnson is studying Radar in Wisconsin.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Borg who have been living in the Red house at Connors Pond have moved to North Amherst to be nearer Mr. Borg's office at Massachusetts State College.

Mrs. Philip Arnold was recently invited to serve as Senior hostess at the Westover Army Air Base.

Mrs. George Gale has two Royal British Marines on leave as house guests until their ship goes out again.

Pvt. George Barnes is expected home on furlough within a few days.

Another homecoming "over East" will be that of Captain and Mrs. George Gale next week.

The Ledgeville Association is using the first East School (now closed) for a Red Cross dressings' center. Besides spending a pleasant afternoon "the girls" are doing a stack of work. Yes, we know some are rather old girls but you can't call Katherine Brunelle and Florence Gale old. Oh no!

St. Peter's Parish has a new service flag with fourteen stars, flanked by Old Glory and the Papal Flags; these are the gifts of the Pastor, Father Costello, and thoughtful parishioners.

Oh yes, Carroll Nelson held another "Gobbler Party" before Thanksgiving. A good time was had by all except the gobblers!

## HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

This has been "deer week" and there have been a good many hunters around but from what we hear the only successful Petersham gunners were Ed Hutchinson, Robin Marsh, and Gabriel Recos.

Dwight Cooley and William Buell Foster are spending their seven day furloughs between Petersham and Athol.

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From a letter received by his parents from a Red Cross worker in England they learned that Horace O. Coolidge Jr. and his aunt, Lt. Mary Coolidge met in London in the spring of 1945 and had luncheon to-gether.

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The War Service Committee was made up of women of each church, the Grange, and American Legion Auxiliary.

They were:

	Mrs. William B. Barnes	<i>Chairman</i>
	Mrs. Myron Bates	<i>Secretary</i>
	Mrs. P. Rupert Gast	} <i>Treasurer</i>
later	Mrs. Gladys Ewing	
	Mrs. Lawrence Nelson	} <i>Editor of The Tatler</i>
later	Mrs. Philip Arnold	
	Miss Laura Amsden	<i>Assistant Editor</i>
	Mrs. Harold Barnes Jr.	
	Mrs. Harry Buell	
	Miss Katherine Dexter	
	Mrs. Emory Gray	
	Miss Delight Gale	

Mrs. Arnold replaced Mrs. Nelson after the first year. Delight Gale left for college in 1943 so Mrs. Elmer Snow accepted her place.

Through all the work accomplished by this group Mrs. Bates deserves special thanks for her constant efforts even beyond the war days.

(The younger boys, last to go into service, were also remembered)

The Red Cross under the direction of Miss Katherine T. Dexter was organized into groups that covered "First Aid"; "Dressings and



## WORLD WAR II

Bandages"; and "Knitting and Sewing". The "First Aid" group was divided into two classes, beginners and advanced. The advanced class went to mock air raids and worked creditably. Mr. Basil Coolidge was an able assistant to Miss Dexter in both of these groups. In all, eighty people received certificates for completing the "First Aid" courses.

The "Dressings and Bandages" work was carried on in the center at the Unitarian Church and at the Ledgeville School (District No.4); one day a week at each place. Our quotas were easily filled and in June 1945 the assignments on hand were finished, ending that work.

The knitters usually worked at home, their work corresponded to that of the British and French Relief, previously mentioned. Much was done by individuals to send clothing to the Greek Relief, as well.

In the Clothing Drive a ton of servicable clothing was packed and sent where needed.

Mr. Ayers Brinser headed a scrap drive which netted over six tons of paper and gave the population relaxation from daily cares. It was this idea which fostered the Petersham Agricultural Fair.

In September 1944 five hundred (500) attended a Country Fair held at the Petersham Center School in connection with the waste paper drive. As a result of a petition requesting that the fair become an annual event all exhibitors were invited to a meeting in Memorial Hall on December 18, 1944 to make plans for an annual cattle show and fair. An executive committee of five was elected—Ayers Brinser, Chairman, George Gale, Harry Buell, Benjamin White, Robert Reid, Sr., and Mrs. Ruth Buell, Secretary. A constitutional committee of three was appointed, then on June 21, 1945 the "Petersham Agricultural Associates" was incorporated with the following directors elected: Ayers Brinser, President; Harry Buell, Vice-President; Francis Parsons, Treasurer; Ruth Buell, Secretary; Mrs. Horace Coolidge, Rev. Earl C. Davis, Daniel Broderick, Benjamin White and George Gale.

It was stated in the by-laws that "this shall be a cooperative non-profit association, the purpose of which shall be to promote

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

agriculture, horticulture and kindred pursuits; to conduct exhibits and fairs; to promote high standards of rural life; to acquire and manage such property as will further these ends”.

The Petersham Agricultural Fair has become a great attraction with exhibits of cattle, poultry, rabbits, other pets, vegetables, fruits, food, canned goods, handicrafts, and fine arts; all by local exhibitors.

Having succeeded on a community scale the association is now seriously planning to broaden the scope of the fair to include other towns.

The Extension Service of Worcester County cooperating with the State Department of Agriculture sponsored a state wide contest in the year 1944.

The purpose of this contest was to check on the farmers of the State who were contributing to the War effort under many difficulties.

Many farmers did much for the War effort, working long hours with shortages of labor and equipment. Women and children of farms worked hard and long hours to produce food for the country and our forces over seas.

It was thought that these farmers should receive some sort of recognition for their efforts. So a banner with a huge A was presented to the farmers that had contributed to the War effort.

In April 1945 farmers from the Western Worcester County attended a mass meeting at the Athol Memorial Hall and were presented the A Awards which were to be hung in the windows of the farms winning this award.

Farmers in Petersham who received the A Award banner were as follows:

Mr. George K. Wilder and Son  
Mr. Myron Bates  
Mr. Ayers Brinser  
Mr. Arthur Coolidge  
Mr. Horace Coolidge  
Mr. George Gale and Son  
Mr. Franklin Johnson  
Miss Ruth Harty

## WORLD WAR II

Mr. Robert Reid

Mr. Charles Buell and Son

Although our Petersham Brass Band was much depleted, it played a major part in all local activities under the patient guidance of Mr. Basil Coolidge. We had music for all sorts of functions from a "weenie roast" at Ledgeville school to a fine band concert at the food fair for the War Service Committee fund, and the band kept right on until the return from war service of some of its members; which seemed to stimulate interest anew.

Another group that turned their play into profit for the War Service fund was the baseball players group. They organized into the Married and Single men's groups, and before long as "The Tatler" puts it, "the old gents began to get the urge to play some out of town games". They played New Braintree and Hardwick with some rather amazing scores. The pitching staff consisted of three men, Alson Goodsell, Guy Marvel and George Kenny, Jr.

As early as Jan. 1941 Petersham was designated by the Army for an observation post of the First Interceptor Command of Air Defense. William B. Barnes was "Chief Observer" and was asked to get the cooperation of other patriotic citizens to help man the post. The service was entirely voluntary and was important as was later proven. It was located on the Hildreth Farm, the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Phillips, and when the blow fell on Pearl Harbor, the Petersham Observation Post was effective that day. Later because of transportation, the watchers requested to move it to the east part of Petersham and use the "Ledgeville School" as the necessary shelter. But the reply stated "I suggest that you relocate in the town of Petersham". So it continued on at the Phillips Farm in the western part of town and in due time the full duty was taken over by the Phillips family. This was made possible by the fact that neighboring posts were operating around the clock and the danger was becoming less as the war progressed.

In October 1944 the children of Petersham gathered milkweed pods for a drive to secure fluff for life jackets. They went at this wholeheartedly and when the drive ended they had 55 full bags of

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

eight hundred pods each.

During World War II Mr. and Mrs. Lewis H. Babbitt, naturalists, lecturers, and collectors of biological supplies, had the privilege of collecting these supplies for pre-medical units of the Army, and the Navy V-12. All the specimens were used in the special college training courses, in zoology, for the study of anatomy, in the medical units of the armed forces, and for special medical research in medical schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Babbitt were given a special Award of Merit for collecting venomous snakes for the Ross Allen Reptile Institute of Silver Springs, Florida. They collected five hundred poisonous snakes which were used for making serum for the treatment of snake bites in the Army and Navy encampments. This was a government project. The venom was also used to combat hemorrhages in severe wounds. Mr. Babbitt is curator of Herpetology at the Worcester Museum of Natural History. He is also an active member of the American Society of Herpetologists and Ichthyologists, a society for scientific research concerning reptiles, amphibians and fishes..

The Governor's Horse Guard, Troop B Cavalry, of the State of Connecticut gave them a special commission of studying the area around the encampment, at a public water supply, for poisonous snakes. This report will be stated in full in the bulletin on the Reptiles of Connecticut when said bulletin is published in that State sometime in the future.

### LEGION POST NO. 415

April, 1947—A Rally for veterans was held in the town hall, Petersham, the purpose of which was to see if the veterans desired to form an American Legion post in this town. The informal discussion was given by Fourth District Commander, Everett W. Bishop and aides. Committee in charge of organization was Robert Thayer, chairman; Elbridge Bates secretary; George T. Kenney and Earle Coolidge.

June 6, 1947—Election of permanent officers as follows:

Commander—Earle B. Coolidge

## WORLD WAR II

Vice-Commander—Robert H. Thayer

Adjutant—Elbridge E. Bates who resigned to resume duties in the Regular Army. Douglas E. Phillips was elected to fill the resultant vacancy.

Finance Officer—Roderick Amidon

Chaplain—Lawrence Nelson

Historian—Lester W. Banks who resigned on October 8, 1947 to work nights thereby being unable to attend regularly. This vacancy was filled by Gilbert M. King.

Sergeant At Arms—Roger E. Coolidge who resigned on October 8, 1947 and replaced by Bernard A. LePoer.

Service Officer—George Smith

June 14, 1947—Temporary Charter granted to the Post by Department Headquarters.

June 17, 1947—First meeting held under the New Charter. It was voted to hold each meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. It was also voted to permanently name the post after the town in which it is located, and shall hereafter be known as Petersham Post No. 415 American Legion.

July 2, 1947—First installation of officers and initiation of members was held in the town hall. The public was invited and refreshments were served after the initiation. The installation ceremony was performed by Fourth District Commander Everett W. Bishop and suite. Twenty-five members were present for the ceremony.

Special thanks should be given William W. Barnes of Barre Post No. 2, Commander Edward French, Junior Vice-Commander Joseph Ellinwood, Adjutant Carl Gunn, and Past Commander John Killay, all of Edward H. Phillips Post No. 102 of Athol for their generous help and guidance in organizing this post and also for the use of the post colors and emblem on installation night.

July 9, 1947—Motion made to draw up set of post by-laws which were read and adopted on August 13, 1947.

September 10, 1947—First athletic committee appointed consisting of the following members; Bernard LePoer, Robert Thayer and Edwin Anderson.

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

November 8, 1947—Military Honors were accorded Pvt. Arthur C. Reid, killed in action in Germany December 12, 1944; Barre Post No. 2 assisted Petersham Post No. 415 at the ceremony.

November 13, 1947—Second annual installation held in town hall was open to the public. Refreshments were served and followed by a dance. Music was provided by Earle Marsh, Robert Thayer, Basil Coolidge and Bobby Gunther. Fourth District Commander William Blanchard and suite performed the initiation ceremony.

Members to date December 3, 1947 total 45, four of whom are World War I veterans, all are charter members.

### LEGION POST NO. 415

Amidon, Roderick	Iott, Henry
Anderson, Edward	Kenney, George T.
Anderson, Edwin	King, Gilbert
Anderson, John B.	Lamb, Herbert
Anderson, Severin	Lawson, Herman
Banks, Lester	Lawson, Glenn
Barnes, Ellis	LePoer, Bernard
Barnes, Thomas	LePoer, John
Bassett, Edward	Mitchell, Benjamin
Bassett, Ernest	Marsh, Earle
Bates, Elbridge	Murray, Edward L.
Belden, Ernest	Nelson, Lawrence
Brunelle, George	Phillips, Douglas
Coolidge, Arthur	Phillips, Robert
Coolidge, Chester	Richards, Kenneth
Coolidge, Earle	Robbins, William
Coolidge, Horace	Robinson, David
Coolidge, Roger	Smith, George
Coolidge, Ruth	Thayer, Robert
Culver, Arthur	Upham, Clifford
Culver, Harriet Barnes	Upham, Donald
Duane, William	Witt, Alexander
Hallberg, Carl	

## WORLD WAR II

### THE WAR-TIME ACTIVITIES OF THE HARVARD FOREST

The wartime activities of the Harvard Forest may be divided into the activities of the staff who left the Forest during the war, the activities of the staff who remained in Petersham, and the uses put to the buildings. In the first category, A. C. Cline, the director, left early in the war on leave of absence and spent the remainder of the war in emergency work in Washington. As head of requirements in the lumber division of the War Production Board, he had one of the most important and difficult positions in Washington, being chiefly responsible for the allocation of scarce timber supplies among the allies and in the United States. Russell J. Lutz left the Forest to become a Captain in the Marines, and served with distinction in the Pacific theatre of combat. In the second category Stephen H. Spurr, who was Acting Director from 1943 to 1946, carried on the routine research, and together with Karl A. Grossenbacher, carried on research in the use of cut foliage in camouflage. Their findings were officially adopted by the armed forces and used in various theatres of operations. Mr. Spurr also developed photo-interpretive devices which were adopted by the armed forces toward the close of the war, and served as consultant to the various services in photo-interpretation. Finally, in the last category, the Forest Headquarters was used as the repository for valuable paintings from two large Art Museums. Petersham thus had, for a brief period, one of the most valuable art collections in the world, but one which was closely guarded, kept a secret, and one which could not be seen by any save its custodians.

*Conservation Objectives met in  
the war and the Forest was  
used as a repository for valuable  
paintings from two large Art  
Museums.*

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

These years, 1940 to 1948 have been years of many changes involving real estate too. There are new homes and new families, so giving approximate dates now available we note that while some of these places are wholly finished others, as in the century past are being completed as the times will allow.

On Lewis Street in the center of town, the place built by Clayton Knowlton opposite Harold Barnes' Sr. is now (1947) owned by Kenneth Clark who came to Petersham with his young family from Baldwinville in 1946.

Going south on the Nichewaug Road the first new house is that of Edson Foster and his wife Helen Dorow Foster. They acquired the property of Fred Brouillette in 1946, formerly land of Louis I. Nelson, and joined their buildings which they moved off of the Elbridge Harwood Farm, to his camp making a fit home.

Beyond and on the same side of the road is the potential home of Gilbert King and his wife Myrtle LePoer King. It stands on the LePoer land. Farther on Maxwell and Mildred (Lawson) Clark have (in 1945) built near Mr. and Mrs. George Wood's small home.

Turning past the intersection of Russell Road is the new place on the left of Ruth and Glen Marvell. Also that of Mr. Benj. White which sets back from the main road, near the entrance to the Choate Road on land formerly part of Eddie O. Russell property.

A little house across from the George Joslyn place was put up by a woman who came to work in Nichewaug, Mrs. Rachael Smith, using a camp building purchased from George Smith about 1938. It was moved from his land on Hardwick-Dana Road and put up on land she purchased from the Joslyns. In 1945 it went to her heirs Edward P. and Carrie E. Bell.

Passing down into Nichewaug Waldo Burdett and his family moved to the Germain Legare place (later Charles Davis). The first house this family lived in was built from the old Legare Shop which stood across the road from the main farm buildings. This he sold to the Metropolitan Water Commission and moved across to the big house in 1945.

Down in the Storrsville area on the Barre-Dana Road is the



## WORLD WAR II

Guy Marvell home. He bought and built on the Charles Stone place back from Cellar Hole No. 110 in 1943, when his own farm just over the Dana Line was finally taken by the Metropolitan Water Commission.

From the High School going down Hardwick Road on land formerly a part the Ed Knapp farm is the new home of Arthur L. Dorow. It is on the west side of the road and bigger than many of the new houses. Built about 1940-1941.

Going south to the Dugway, which runs west from Hardwick Road at the cemetery, is the new house built by Vernon and Roberta (Welch) Banks. It is on land formerly part of her father's farm. (Edward Welch)

George Smith (son of Burt C. Smith) and a veteran of World War II has sold a piece of land to Raymond and Mildred (French) Hall for their house. It stands quite close to his own on land known formerly as the Artemas or Norman Lorin place. (See Cellar Hole No. 116)

Another change since 1944 is in the ownership of the Alice Waide (or Dufault) farm at Dana Four Corners. This was purchased by a young veteran and his wife, Alexander H. Jr. and Eleanor H. Witt. They came from Worcester.

The Chism (Samuel Clarke-Loring Sprague) place opposite the town forest on West Street was recently (1947) purchased by another veteran of World War II and his wife Lester and Barbara (Symington) Banks.

Going along the lower Athol Road there is a new house in progress on the Cellar Hole No. 156 of the Rufus Johnson home site. The building formerly one from the Amsden D. A. Camp was bought and moved there by Philip LaSarno in 1947. He married Elsie Baldwin.

A small home built by Ethan Clarke about 1940 at Burrage Corner on Tom Swamp Road is now owned by John Burrage. Ethan and Margaret (Burrage) Clarke bought and moved to the Daniel Johnson (Merriam Roberts-then Brackley), place on Flat Rock Road near the Winfred Ball farm. Mr. Brackley has owned

## *HISTORY OF PETERSHAM*

several places in that neighborhood for sales only.

Out on Tom Swamp Road on the old McFarland place (Cellar Hole No. 161) John L. Waldo has retained a camp house.

On Popple Camp Road, which is really the Phillipston Road, is the new house built by Arthur LaPointe (in 1947) and his wife Shirley (Bryant) LaPointe. This stands a little to the east of the Shaw Road junction on land previously owned by Miss Katharine Dexter.

Mr. Fred Elliott has built four new houses in his immediate vicinity. One on the south side of the road and three on the north. These are used for his employees mostly; and the next and last house at the town line is that of his son Wayne Elliott.

North, near the Athol-Petersham line on Doe Valley Road, Mr. Davenport rebuilt on the site of his former house that had burned. It is the home of his son Howard Davenport and his wife Jane (May) Davenport. This was rebuilt about 1940-1941, and Mr. Davenport Sr. now lives on the next farm which was his mother's.

In 1947 John Church (from Barre, and a grandson of John Mills) a veteran of World War II purchased the James Brooks Farm on East Street from Margaret Fiske. This is now an attractive home. The big barns have been taken down and parts of the material are being used by Howard Phillips to build his house on the Peckham lot facing the high school drive, west entrance.

Another veteran, Lawrence Nelson, has made a comfortable little home of the small house on the Joseph Wildes (now Mrs. Marguerite Brunelle) place near the New East Cemetery.

Up the hill from Brown's Pond going east stands the Elbridge Harwood place which has been sold (1947) to a man from West Boylston, Adolf Gustafson. The old fireplaces are being uncovered and the whole restored to its original charm.

The Joseph Rickey farm is now (1947) owned by Charles Perkins who came here in 1940 from Vermont.

At the Howe Farm, or now Frank A. Coolidge Farm, there is a new little house built by F. Arthur Coolidge from lumber felled by the 1938 hurricane. It is on the site of a mill which burned about 1865 after a short period of usefulness. It stands at the left of the turn

## WORLD WAR II

in the road going to the big house.

The Charles W. Gates farm was purchased by Franklin H. Johnson in 1947 from his father Avery A. Johnson.

About 1943 the Oliver Loring property was bought by George B. Gale and the house which had badly deteriorated was torn down. This was originally built by John Bowker and the last owner was Mrs. Edith Towne Miller who sold it to George Gale.

In that same year the Ledgeville School, our last District School, was closed and the children transported to the Center School. The building now 102 years old is used as a gathering place. It had nearly completed 100 years of service as a school.

At the fork of the Barre-Hubbardston Road the Dickinson House was bought (1947) by Leslie Cooley. The family came here from Dana in 1938 and had lived on the Charles Wm. Gates farm in the interim period.

On the Old Barre Road the first little home on the right in process of completion is Edward Bassett's, a young veteran. Opposite the turn of the Hammond Road is that of his sister Louella and her husband William Ellsworth.

The second one on the left is that of William Perkins another young veteran of World War II. He built in 1940-1941 on the Cellar Hole No. 60 of the Jonas Brown place.

The Old Patrick Tobin farm (later William Perkins Sr.) was recently acquired, in 1947, by Robert Reid Jr. and his wife Verna (Hodge) Reid. It is in the process of being rebuilt.

On the Hubbardston Road going from L. Cooley's, Francis and Eleanor White have built (1940-1941) on the Skinner place. (Cellar Hole No. 59)

While farther on, going east at the junction of the Carberry Road is the camp home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Merritt who came here about 1938.

# PETERSHAM HONOR ROLL

## WORLD WAR II

We close this "History of Petersham" with a list of those who have helped make it possible for us to continue to live in a free town, and a free country. To these men and women we are eternally grateful.

As this goes to press discharges recorded in the town service book give:—Date Recorded-Name and Residence-Service Number-Date of Birth-Place of Birth-Age Enlisted-Color Eyes-Hair-Height-Complexion-Single or Married-Occupation-Kin and Address-Date Drafted or Enlisted-Place-Date Reported for Active Service-Assignment to (Organization)- At (Location)-Discharged-From (Organization)-Place Discharged-Rank When Discharged-Nature of Discharge:-1 Reason 2 Degree of Disability-Promotions-Transfers-Battles-Wounds or Injuries Received-Medals-Decorations and Citations (Action and Date)-Sailed from U. S.-Arrived at Port Overseas-Sailed from Overseas-Arrived at Port in U. S.-Remarks which would include items such as taken prisoner, when released, etc.

Amidon, Roderick  
Anderson, Carl  
Anderson, Edwin C.  
Anderson, John B.  
Anderson, Severin Edward  
Armstrong, Justin  
Armstrong, Lester  
Avery, Eustace E.  
Avery, Joseph A.  
Baldwin, John  
Baldwin, Robert  
Banks, Lester  
Barnes, Bernard Jr.  
    (In Service-Navy)  
Barnes, Ellis  
Barnes, Ellen H.

Barnes, George William  
    (Lt. Marine Reserve)  
Barnes, James A.  
    (In Service-Navy)  
Barnes, Thomas A. Jr.  
Bassett, Edward L.  
Bassett, Ernest R.  
Bates, Elbridge C.  
    (Major Army Air Force)  
Bryant, Richard  
Bryant, Robert A.  
Brunelle, George F.  
Buell, Edgar W.  
Buell, Kenneth H.  
Cooley, Dwight  
Cooley, Earl L.

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Coolidge, Arthur R.	Mitchell, Gordon B.
Coolidge, Chester D.	(In Service)
Coolidge, Earle B.	Mitchell, Lloyd J.
Coolidge, Horace O.	(Killed in action)
Coolidge, Roger E.	Moriarty, Richard W.
Coolidge, Claire	Murcell, Gerald H.
Coolidge, Mary	Murray, Edward L.
Coolidge, Ruth M.	Murray, Edward L.
Duane, Thomas W. Jr.	(In Service-Army)
Elliott, Exton E.	Nelson, Lawrence I.
Efesik, William R.	Newbury, Robert
Ewing, Scott	Newbury, Walter A.
Ferguson, William	(Missing and presumed dead)
Frazer, William R. Jr	Nickerson, Vernon W.
(Ensign Navy Reserve)	Ovitt, Clifford W.
Gale, George O.	Pimental, John J.
Gordon, Allistair H.	Radash, Paul
Gordon, Roger	Recos, Gabriel Jr.
Gray, Charles H.	(In Service-Navy)
Gray, Richard	Reid, Arthur C.
Hallberg, Carl G.	(Killed in action)
Kenny, George T. Jr.	Robinson, David A.
Kennedy, Andrew H.	Smith, Louis F.
(In Service U. S. C. G.)	(Missing and reported dead)
King, Gilbert M.	Smith, George W.
Krull, Weikko	Snow, Elmer A.
Lamb, Herbert N.	Stanford, Norman R.
Lawson, Glenn H.	(In Service Regular Marines)
Lawson, Herman Lawrence	Thayer, Robert Hamlin
LePoer, Bernard A. Jr.	Thomas, David A.
LePoer, John P.	(Lt. Marine Reserve)
LaPointe, Leo J.	Towne, Robert E. Jr.
Leyton, Dana	Tracey, Robert S.
Lutz, Russell J.	Upham, Clifford E.
Marsh, Earle W.	

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Upham, Donald F.  
Vlamiš, James  
Waldo, Peter  
Warrington, Levi S.

Warrington, William M.  
Welch, Robert E.  
White, Lawrence  
(In Service-Navy)

List of those who have lived in Petersham, either before their entrance into the service, or, whose home is now in Petersham since being discharged.

Barnes, Bernard H. Jr.  
Brake, Ralph W.  
Buell, Elsie  
(Civilian Employee Hdqts.  
E. A. T. S.)  
Church, John  
Coolidge, Charles Frederick Jr.  
Day, Allen  
(1st. Lt Army Air Force)  
Day, Willson  
(Killed in service)  
Davenport, Howard L.  
(Ensign Navy Air Corps)  
Finn, Dana E.  
Finn, John J.  
Foster, Harry Willard  
Goodsell, Alfred I.  
(In Service-Navy)  
Goodsell, Norton H.  
(Ensign Navy Air Corps)

Gillis, Francis  
Hapgood, Norman Jr.  
Hassett, Waman S.  
(Lt. Col U. S. Army)  
Hassett, Wells B.  
Iott, Henry D.  
Lehman, Helen F.  
Putnam, Roger L.  
(Lt. Com. U. S. N.)  
Putnam, Roger L. Jr.  
(Army Air Corps)  
Putnam, William L.  
(Capt. U. S. Army)  
Richards, Kenneth  
Waid, Lee  
Waid, Lloyd  
Waid, Marshall  
(Killed in Action)

“And so thy children, Petersham  
Have made thy merit known”

*Tower*

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# ERRATA

Page 47 Line 2 Wilson should be Willson

Page 80 Line 34 Eleazer McFarland should be Elijah

Page 118 Line 2 Ferdrie Grosvenor should be Frederick

Page 114 Line 27 Wabbin probably Warden

Page 189 Line 19 Martin Heald should be Martin Shields

Page 225 Line 4 Shumay should be Shumway

Page 317 Line 18 Welsh should be Welch

Page 337 Line 32 Haveland should be Haviland

*Date on jacket should be 1675*

## NOTES

## NOTES

## NOTES

## NOTES















FOUR MAPS  
FOR  
THE HISTORY OF PETERSHAM

BY  
MABEL COOLIDGE

CHANDLER MAP  
1795 MAP  
CELLAR HOLE MAP  
1940 POINTS OF INTEREST MAP





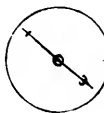




40.86 Mts. & 100 Acres by Greenwald to Brook Farm

1 Plan of the Town of Stoughton in the County of Worcester - Surveyed  
by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Containing by Estimation 27400 Acres -  
the reputed distance from the Shire Town of said County to the center of this Town  
is 30 Miles, and from the Metropolis of the Commonwealth 75 Miles to  
the center of this Town, Protracted by a Scale of 200 Acres  
to an Inch - Surveyed May Annae Domini 1795 - by Jeremiah Robinson

Joseph B. Brown } Lieutenant  
John (Dootch) } of  
Jeremiah Robinson } Rhyham



5.2 W 4 Miles, 8, 190 m. by N. to S. E. corner of N. 1/4 Sec. 10.

Corner of ~~Highland~~ ~~Street~~

Sec'd by Mr. 30 M.D.

80% WTC & by hand

N 30° W 6 Miles & 60 Rod by Garry to Alkal Line

36. E. to Hills 197 Nov. by down to summit of Long

2. 10. 1946

22

East branch of Tappan River

Howard Road

Kunjahim Poo

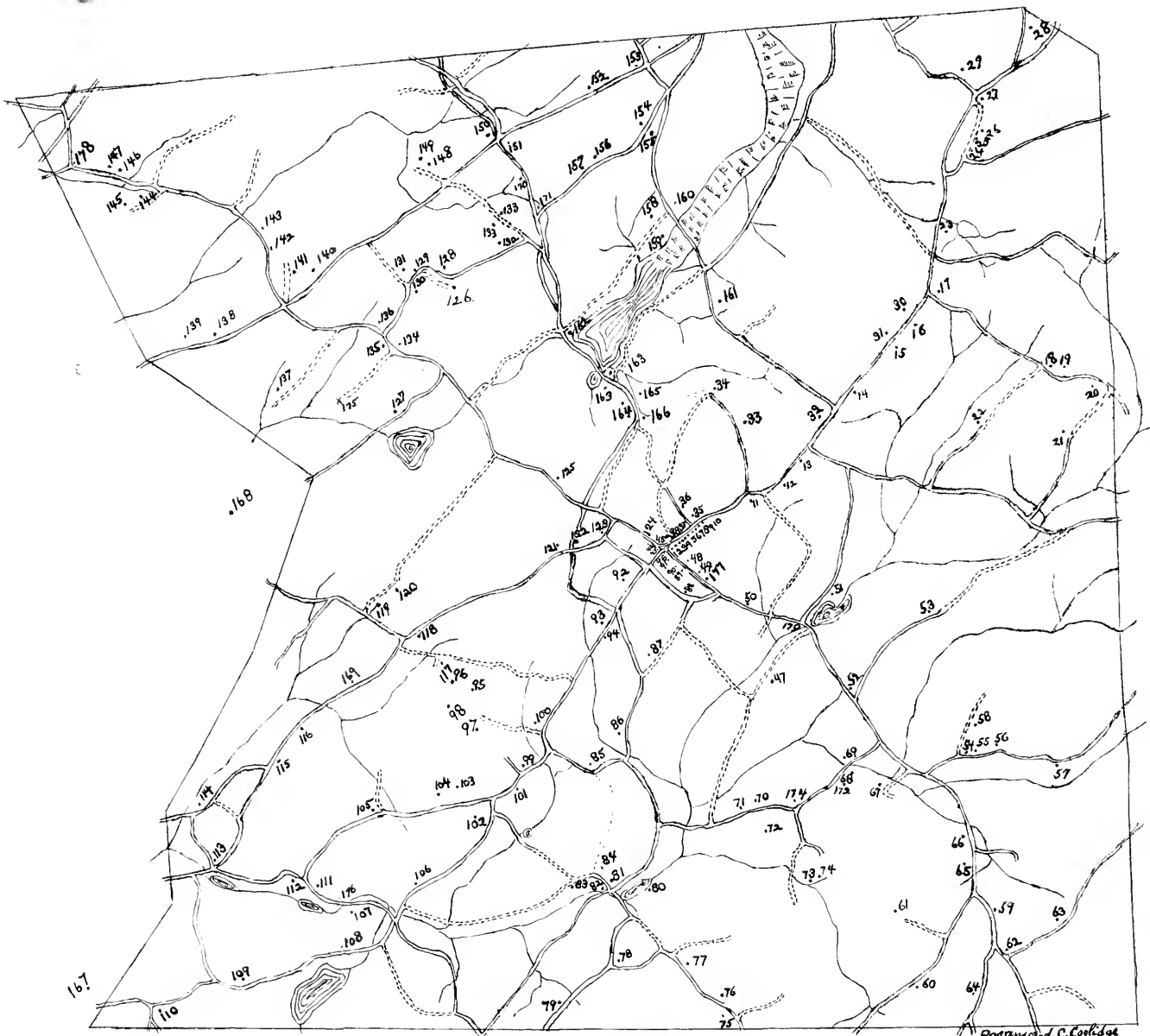
meeting house

カ

Mod withal

*Samuelson King*

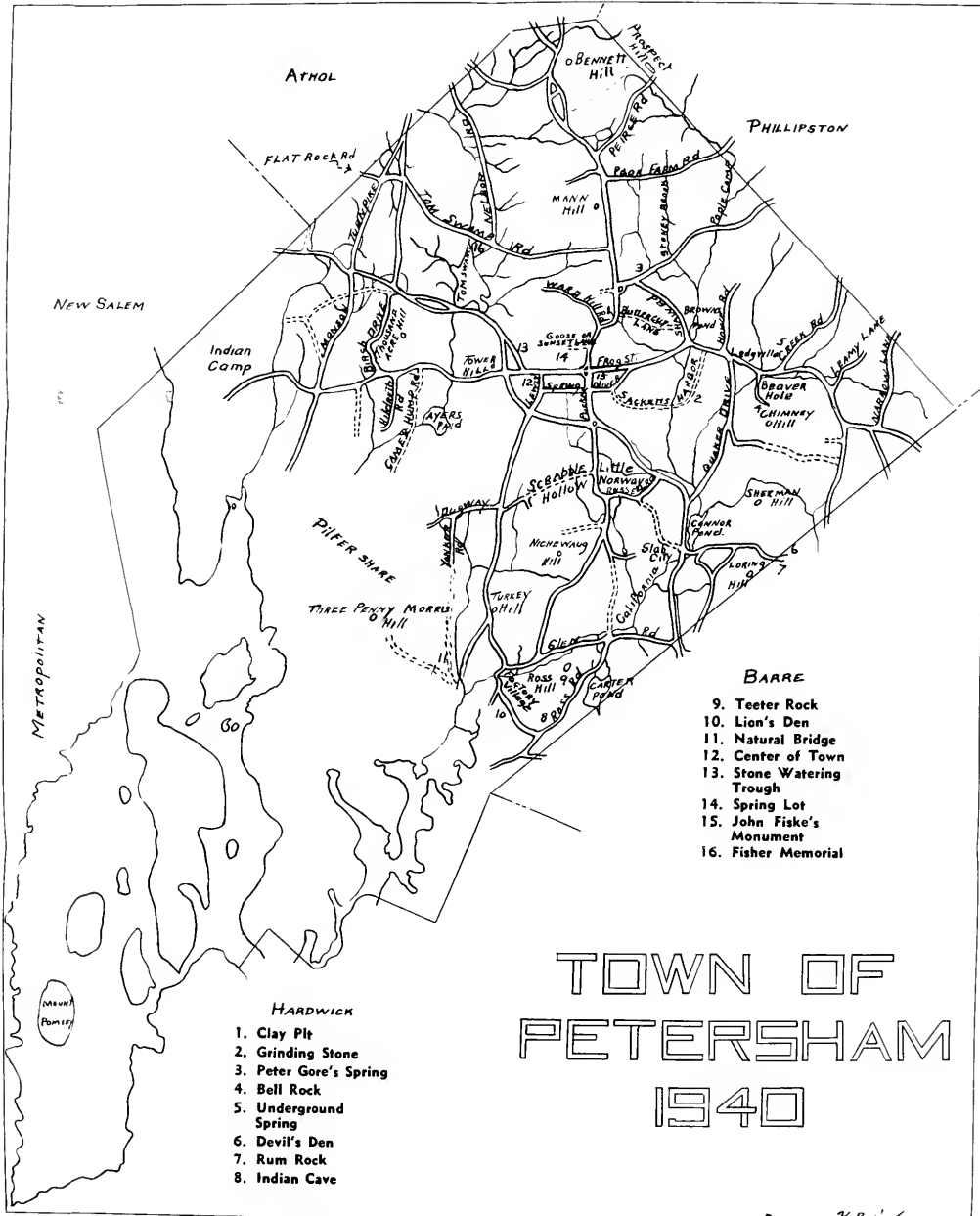




Key to The Chapter on  
Cellar Holes

Rosamond C. Corlidge





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